

REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF
FUND, 1897.

VOL. II.

PROVINCIAL REPORTS,

DESCRIBING THE OPERATIONS IN THE DIFFERENT PROVINCES UP TO
31st OCTOBER 1897, TOGETHER WITH FINAL BALANCE
SHEETS UP TO THE 31st JANUARY 1898.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT	1
CENTRAL PROVINCES	183
BENGAL	243, 245, 249
BOMBAY	303
MADRAS	359
PUNJAB	435-36
CENTRAL INDIA	553
BURMAH	
BERAR	607, 609
BALUCHISTAN	649
RAJPUTANA	655
<hr/>	
CLOTHING RECEIVED FROM ENGLAND, AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE. STATEMENT OF DISTRIBUTION	671
ADDENDUM	676
CORRIGENDA	ib

INDEX TO PROVINCIAL REPORTS.

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Accounts and Audit	5
—— N.-W. P. Branch	<i>ib.</i>
—— Oudh Branch	<i>ib.</i>
Acknowledgment of services	13
Allahabad. Public meeting at —	109
Appendices	39
Artizans. Relief to —	7, 119, 135
Auditor's final report on his examination of District accounts (Appendix F.)	170
Cattle, <i>see</i> Cultivators.	
—— Provision for maintenance of — not needed	3
—— and seed. Provision of funds for purchase of —	<i>ib.</i>
Charity. Local — as early as June 1896	79
—— commenced — anterior to Charitable Fund	2
Cheap grain shops	163
Cheat. Attempts to —	76
Children's kitchens	103, 106, 111
Circular letter relative to applications from Missionaries and other religious bodies, for assistance from the Famine Relief Fund, for the Orphanages managed by them (Appendix B.)	43
—— directing economy (Appendix C)	<i>ib.</i>
Cloth, <i>see</i> Dealers.	
Clothes. Burning of old —	45, 48, 49
—— Devices to obtain —	45
Clothes. Distribution of — on close of relief	122
—— stopped	108
—— by Missionary ladies	122
—— given to Purdahnishins	67, 131, 139
—— suitable for Purdahnishins	84, 90
—— Great need of	48, 50
—— Incidents in distribution of	45
—— Lady Dufferin's	102
—— Mrs. Hauser's	81, 102
—— Local gifts of	145
—— Measures to prevent sale of	49
—— Number supplied to paupers	10
—— to respectable persons	11
—— Size of — distributed	46
—— Systems of distribution	47, 49
—— Distribution of — to people on relief works. Reports of officers of, or attached to the Public Works Department (Appendix D.)	44, 50
Report of the Executive Engineer, Agra District	44
" Superintending Engineer, Allahabad District	44
" Sub-Engineer, District Surveyor, Banda District	48
" Sectional officer, Badausa, Banda District	47
" District Engineer, Cawnpore District	50
" Vice-Chairman, Municipal Board, Fatehpur	49
" District Surveyor, Hamirpur	48
" Ditto Jalaun	49
" Sectional officer, Jasra	45
" Executive Engineer, Jhansi	48
" Sectional officer, Meja Road	45
Comforts in Government poor-houses	10, 96, 97, 105, 127
Committee, Executive, Formation of the North-Western Provinces branch	1
Ditto Oudh branch	<i>ib.</i>
Cultivators. Alleged extortion from—	53, 76, 128, 146, 160

	PAGE.
Cultivators. Co-operation amongst — to plough	64
— Distribution of relief by money-orders	90
— Gifts for weeding	101
— Gifts to — in flooded villages	149
— Great direct and indirect value of gifts to —	73, 84, 143, 151
— Method of making lists and distributing relief to — in Oudh	6
— — — — — in all districts by Collectors	
— 57, 67, 84, 90, 93, 102, 107, 111, 119, 123, 134, 139, 144, 146, 148, 160, 162, 166, 169	12
— Modes of relief of —	85
— Return of money by —	101
— Singular suspicions of —	12
— Sums expended on	12
Dealers in cloth. Advances of materials to	12
— Purchases from	2
Distribution. Provincial Committees' principles of	
District Reports, Agra, 52; Allahabad, 108; Azamgarh, 136; Ballia, 130; Banda, 94; Bara Banki, 167; Bareilly, 69; Basti, 132; Benares, 123; Bijnor, 71; Budaun, 73; Cawnpore, 86; Dehra Dun, 50; Etah, 64; Etawah, 62; Farukhabad, 59; Fatehpur, 91; Fyzabad, 151; Ghazipur, 128; Gonda, 159; Gorakhpur, 130; Hamirpur, 104; Hardoi, 147; Jalaun, 122; Jaunpur, 126; Jhansi, 111; Kheri, 149; Lucknow City, 140; Lucknow District, 142; Mainpuri, 60; Mirzapur, 126; Moradabad, 74; Muttra, 55; Muzaffarnagar, 51; Partabgarh, 164; Pilibhit, 82; Rai Bareilly, 144; Shahjahanpur, 79; Sitapur, 115; Sultanpur, 160; Unao	143
District work and reports	13
Doles. Measures taken to prevent a person receiving double —	63
— Supplementing Government —	10
— see Valedictory.	
Economy. Circular enjoining — (Appendix C.)	43
Expenditure. Supervision of — by Local Committees	4
Estimates. Original — of Funds required	2
Extortion by village officials—see Cultivators.	
Febrifuges. Distribution of —	10
Food and Clothing, see Gifts or clothes.	
Form B., Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	17
— C. Cash account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	34
— D. Statement of Receipts of District Committees working under Provincial Committees from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897	36
— E. Statement of Receipts of Expenditure working under Provincial Committees from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897	37
— C. Final Balance Sheet	181
Fruits and roots. Consumption of wild —	91, 94
Fund. Institution of the—	1
— Total amount received	1
— Appropriation between North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1
— Abstract of receipts and expenditure of the	9, 10
— Miscellaneous expenditure from the —	33, 35
Funeral grant	169
Gifts of food and clothing from the Central Committee and England	3
Gratitude of relieved persons	55, 68, 82, 86, 100, 128, 135, 136
Hose, Mr. Commendation of services of —	13
Houses. Grants for rebuilding	13, 85, 108, 111, 144, 148
— Ditto stopped	102
Leper Asylum—aid given to	51
Lists of members of the Executive and General Committees	40, 41
Lucknow. Public Meeting at—	40
— City. Modes of relief in —	140
— Relief divided between Government and the Fund	61
Milk, see Comforts.	
Miscellaneous expenditure, see Fund	
Missionaries and Mission ladies. Distribution by	56, 62, 142, 152, 155, 159
— Principles of assisting orphanages belonging to —	43

	PAGE.
Mohwa. Value of —	109
Office expenditure, <i>see</i> Fund.	
Orphans. Relief of —	11, 110
——— Provision for —	4
Oudh Branch. Brief account of Proceedings of the—	5
——— Funds	5
Overlapping Government relief. Measures to prevent Fund relief	43
Purdahnishins, Amount of doles to — at Agra	54
——— ——— in Oudh	6
——— Distribution of relief to—	128
——— Consideration shewn to feelings of —	72, 76, 81
——— Objections of — to be on relief lists	72, 92, 99
——— Starvation of — prevented by Fund	81, 93
——— Value of clothes given to —	84, 90
Patent foods. Value of —	93, 98, 102, 103, 107, 110
Periodical Returns —	2
Poem on Fund	135
Poorhouses, Comforts in Government	10, 96, 97, 105, 127
——— Fund and private	125, 130
——— Government	125, 130
Prices. High —	109, 114
Public Works Department. Reports of officers of — <i>see</i> Clothing.	
Quinine. Distribution of —	10, 59, 70, 85, 146, 149
Rai Kumar Permanand Bahadur. Commendation of services of —	13
Receipts. District	7
Religious bodies, <i>see</i> Missionaries.	
Remittances from the Central Committee	2
Report on the operations of the Fund after 31st October 1897	175
Respectable poor. Clothing of —	11
——— Large grants for	107, 110
——— Rates of money doles to	11
——— Relief of — described	11, 106, 155
Subscribers. List of —	7
Subscriptions Large district	7, 141
——— Aggregate of —	7
——— From a Lady whose husband was killed in the Mutiny	9
——— Special individual —	7
Supervision over expenditure exercised by Provincial Committee	4
Supplementing Government relief	97
Unsystematic relief or charity	95
Valedictory doles	122, 150
"Victoria." Gifts attributed to "Mother"	136
Wanderers. Aid to —	10, 130, 143
Weavers. Aid to —	126
——— Distress of —	124
——— Purchase of cloth from —	10
Wild fruits and roots. Consumption of —	9, 97

CENTRAL PROVINCES PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Aboriginal tribes	185
——— Difficulties of relieving —	219
Acknowledgment of services	224
Agency for distribution	207
Agricultural population	185
Agriculturists. Relief to —	207
Allotments to District Committees and their incidence per head of population	199
American grain. Distribution of —	211, 219
Artizans. <i>See</i> Weavers.	
Balaji Gangadhar's, Mr.—Account of — distribution to cultivators	209
Blankets. <i>See</i> clothes.	

	PAGE.
Cattle. Distribution of — to <i>communes</i>	208
—— Ditto in kind	216
—— See Cultivators.	
—— and seed. See Seed.	
Charity. Private — before the formation of the Charitable Relief Fund	195—198
Chhattisgarh Feudatory States	212
Cholera in distribution camps	209, 222
Clothes, blankets, etc., distributed in cold weather	199, 214
—— Distribution of —	202, 203, 205, 213, 217
—— Clothes received from England	214, 217, 219, 220, 221, 224
—— See Pardahnishins.	
Committee. Formation of the Central Provinces Branch and the Provincial Executive —	191
—— Members of Executive —	193
—— Members who have done good work	227
Committees. Formation of District —	193
—— Statement showing dates of formation of District —	194
Crops, generally grown —	184
—— Successive failures of —	186—189
—— Table shewing percentage of outturn on full average outturn of all — taken together since 1892-93	188
Cultivators. Assistant Commissioner's description of distribution to —	209
—— Distribution of relief to —	208, 215, 218
—— Gifts of cattle in kind to —	208, 216
—— Grain distributed in kind to —	220
—— Consolidated grants for cattle and seed, to —	221
—— Independence of —	215
—— Rules for making lists of —	208
—— Reluctance of — to accept relief	210
—— Special grants to —	218
—— Value of relief to —	215, 218, 220, 221
Death-rate. High —	190
—— Statement showing monthly — per <i>mille</i> per annum	190
Description of the country	183
Distress. How the present — has been brought about	186
Distribution amongst district committees. Agency for —	199
—— Agency for distribution of money to cultivators	207
District reports. Balaghat, 222; Betul, 221; Bhandara, 222; Chhindwara, 217; Damoh, 221; Mandla, 218; Raipur, 213; Nagpur, 224; Saugor	200
Expenditure. Statement showing district — under Four Objects	201
—— Total —	200
Extortion by petty officials	218
Form B. Statement shewing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897.	230
—— C. Cash account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897	240
—— D. Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	241
—— E. Statement of Expenditure ditto ditto	242
—— F. Final account	667
Fund. Good done by the —	220
—— Liberal grants from the Central —	198
Grain. See American.	
Grain shops. Cheap.— <i>Modus operandi</i> of —	205
—— Statement of transactions of —	207
—— Capital advanced by private individuals	207
—— Need and advantages of —	214, 218
Grants. See distribution,	
—— Fund. See Fund.	
Gratitude for relief	
Harvests. Series of calamitous — preceding the Famine	211
Hilly district. Importation of seed grain into a —	186
<i>Khawai</i> or subsistence allowance and the manly pride of cultivators	222
Leper Asylum. Aid to —	215
Low, Mr. —, an Assistant Commissioner's account of distribution to cultivators	214
Lyall. Sir Charles.— Speech by —	209
Malguzars. Aid given by — to their tenants	191
	198

	PAGE.
Missionaries and others. Exertions made by — before the famine commenced	195, 197
———. Joined the Committees	194
———. Distribution by Lady —	205
———. Distribution of clothes	214
———. Roman Catholic	224
Missionary orphanages, subsidised	203
Muhammadans	186
Objects. I. Relief under — described	202
——— II. Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
——— III. Ditto	205
——— IV. Ditto	207.
Orphanages. Employments taught in —	204
———. Missionary — subsidised	203
Orphans. Arrangements for maintenance of —	204
Purdahnishins. Clothes suitable for —	217
——— and respectable poor. Relief given through Nuns and Zenana Missionaries	205
———. Selection of — for relief	220, 221
Patent foods	203, 221
Persons. Statement of — relieved under the Four Objects	201
——— See State.	
Physical features and water-supply	183
Poor-houses. Fund and private	195 to 197, 213
———. Government —	202
Private charity. See Charity.	
Produce. Average — during the past five years	187
Receipts. Total —	200
Relief. Distribution of —	202
——— See Object.	
——— See State.	
Respectable poor. System of distribution to —	205, 214
Roman Catholic Mission, Nagpore	224
——— Orphanage. The work of a —	203
Seed and cattle. Money to cultivators for purchase of —	209
State relief. Numbers in receipt of —	189
———. Percentage of persons relieved by the State to population	189
Subsistence allowance. See <i>Kharwai</i> .	
Valedictory doles	217
Villages. Re-population of deserted—.	216
Weavers. Aid to —	206, 214, 216, 219, 222

BENGAL PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Accounts. Travelling Examiner of—	260
——— and returns, District. Want of uniformity in—	260
Acknowledgement of services	245, 276, 293
Affected Areas, description of	250
———, Physical conditions of —, Presidency Division	252
Baker, Mr. E. N., Secretary, Bengal Provincial Committee.	245
Bourdillon, Mr. J. A. Special thanks to—	277
Calcutta, Relief by Provincial Committee in—	258, 259
Cattle and seed. Grants for purchase of—	274
Charity prior to formation of Charitable Fund	256
Children, Relief of —	258, 265
Chittagong cyclone. Relief needed owing to the—	276
Chota Nagpore. Extract from the Commissioner's letter, Appendix G.	292
Circular No. 1, regarding formation of Local Committees, Appendix C.	280
Clothing. Distribution of — received from abroad	261
Clothes, (Object I)	264, 265
———, (Object III)	269
———, Mrs. Hauser's	261

	PAGE.
Comforts, Distribution of—	264, 265
Committee, List of members of the Executive—, (Appendix B.).	279
Committees, Formation of District —	257
———, Functions of different—	258
———, Instructions to District Magistrates, etc., Appendix C.	280
———, Meetings of Provincial—	259
———, Formation of Provincial—	257, 279
Condition of the people in the Presidency—Economic—	250, 253
Crops grown in the Presidency Divisions, Nature and relative importance of—	250, 253
Cultivators, Grants of Cattle and seed to—	274
———Small average grants to—	275
Cyclone, Chittagong—	276
Descriptions of affected areas—Bhagalpore Division	251
Burdwan and Orissa Divisions	253
Chota Nagpur Division	251
Patna Division	250
Presidency Division	252
Distress, Causes of—	253, 255
Distribution of Funds	260
Districts affected by high prices	250
———less seriously affected	249
———officially recognised as affected by famine	249
Doles in grain and money	271
Extent of the Famine	249
Examiner of Accounts. <i>See</i> Accounts.	
Expenditure	262
———under Object I	265
———under Object IV (enabling the poor to make a fresh start in life)	274
Famine. <i>See</i> Districts	252
Fancy Fair, Lady Mackenzie's—	261
Form B, showing details of relief expenditure in each district from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	286
———, Details of persons relieved up to 31st October 1897	288
———, C, Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	284
———, Statement of subscriptions realised from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	290
———, Statement of Receipts and disbursements of each district in the Province from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	285
———, C, Final Balance Sheet	301
Fund and Government Relief. <i>See</i> Overlapping.	
Funds, Distribution of—	260, 272
Grain and money, Doles in—	271
———, Relative advantages of Doles in	ib.
Grain shops, Cheap—	273
———The working of a —, (Appendix F)	291
Harvests, Short— in 1896-97	255
High prices, Districts affected by—	250
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Establishment of — and organisation of relief	256
Indigo and poppy, Area under each crop	250
Loans, Charitable Fund—	273, 275
———advantages of — discussed	275, 292
Mackenzie. <i>See</i> Fancy Fair.	
Money doles (<i>see</i> also grain)	273
Object I (Definition extended)	262
———Expenditure under—	262—267
———II, Orphans	267
———III, Miscellaneous expenditure	273
———Relief of the respectable poor	250, 268
———IV Ditto	273
Objects to which private subscriptions may be devoted	279
Occupations of the people in the Presidency Division	253
Organisation of relief Committees, sketched out by Government of India	282
Orphans, Future maintenance of —	267, 268
——— <i>See</i> Object II.	
Overlapping of Charitable and Government relief, Measures to prevent—	272

	PAGE
Patent Foods	265
Physical condition of areas affected in the Presidency division	252
Prices High. <i>See</i> Districts.	
——Statement shewing the — of common rice in seers per rupee at the head-quarters of the affected districts, compared with the normal rates and prices which prevailed in the famine of 1873-74	255
Poor-house and kitchens maintained by the Fund	255, 266
Rainfall. Statement showing the monthly——in each of the affected districts during 1896-97	254
Rains. Failure of the—	253
Receipts and expenditure	261
—— by District Committees	262
—— <i>See</i> Overlapping.	
—— <i>See</i> Charity.	
Relief. Organisation of——and establishment of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.	256
—— <i>See</i> Children.	
—— Respectable poor	269
Respectable poor, Doles in grain or money to——	271
—— Employments given to——	269, 270
—— Importance of relief to——	268
Rice. Outturn of winter——	255
Saran. Working of cheap grain shops in——Appendix F.	291
Seed and Cattle. Grants for purchase of——	274
Subscribers Special mention of Lady Mackenzie and other——	261
Subscriptions. Objects to which private—— may be devoted, Appendix A.	279
—— sketch of the organisation suggested for the collection and administration of private——	282
—— statement of —— realised from the opening of the Fund to 31st October 1897	290
Travellers, destitute —— Relief of——	263
——, scale of food given to——	263
——, Statement shewing the number of —— relieved every month	264
Valedictory doles	276
Wanderers	256, 263
Winter rice. <i>See</i> Rice.	
Work supplied to non-professional persons	269
Zemindars, etc., List of——whose services have contributed to render the operations of the Fund successful, Appendix H.	293

BOMBAY PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Affected Areas	303
Amalgamation of Provincial with General Fund	304
Area sown by aid of the Fund	314
Bombay Presidency Famine Fund	304
—— Public Meeting at ——	303
Cattle. Difficulty in procuring ——	322
—— Enormous losses of ——	310, 313
—— and seed. Supply of ——	310
—— Purchase of —— and usefulness of Object IV	321
Charitable Relief	304
Charity. Local —— anterior to Charitable Fund	304
—— Extensive private —— and cheap grain shops	309
Children. Relief of ——	318
—— Comforts to ——	312
—— <i>see</i> Meals.	
Clothes bought from Weavers	306
—— Distribution of —— to paupers	306, 309, 312, 317
—— Ditto —— to respectable poor	309, 318
—— kind of —— most needed	306
Clothing to respectable poor	308
Comforts and aid to relief workers	307, 312
—— in poor houses	307, 312, 317
—— to children	312

	Page.
Committee, formation of —	303
—— Members of District —	316
—— Ditto Provincial —	304, 330
Conclusion	329
Cooked food. <i>See</i> Grain.	
Crops. Failure of — in Bijapur	315
Cultivators. Cattle given away to —	321
—— Distribution to —	313
—— Extensive grants to —	321
Distress. Causes of —	303, 315
District reports —	
Ahmednagar, 325. Belgaum, 328. Bijapur	311, 314
Bombay, 323. Dharwar, 328. Khandesh, 324. Kolaba	323
Nasik, 324. Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha	323
Poona, 325. Satara, 326. Sholapore, 327. Thana	323
Doles. <i>See</i> Supplementing.	
—— <i>See</i> Grain.	
Expenditure	305
Form B. Statement shewing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	332
—— C. Cash account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897	352
—— D. Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement up to the 31st October 1897	353
—— E. Ditto of Expenditure ditto ditto	354
—— C. Final Balance Sheet	355
Grain or cooked food. Doles of —	309
Grain-shops. Cheap—. Large number of private —	309, 313, 318, 325
—— Device for preventing abuse of —	320
Gratitude of recipients	322, 327, 330
Meals for children	307
Missionaries	316, 319
Object I. Relief under—	306
—— II. ditto	308
—— III. ditto	ib.
—— IV. ditto	309
—— III. Miscellaneous expenditure under —	ib.
—— IV. Usefulness of —	321
Office and contingent expenditure	310
Orphans. Provision for the maintenance of —	308
Pensioners. Relief to —	319
Poorhouses. Comforts in —	307
Receipts	305
Relief, <i>see</i> Object.	
—— <i>see</i> Supplementing.	
Seed, <i>see</i> Cattle.	
Subscriptions. Acknowledgment of —	305
Supplementing the Government dole— in gratuitous relief	307
Supplementing the wage on Famine relief works	307
Wage. Supplementing the — on Famine Relief Works	307
Weavers. Relief of—	306, 309, 317, 318, 320

MADRAS PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Acknowledgments of services	380
Affected districts. Previous famine histories of the—	360
Allotments received from the Central Committee	366
—— Statement showing the — to the several District Committees	392
—— Final — under Object IV	379
American—Grain	410
Artizans. <i>See</i> Weavers.	
Brass Workers. Relief to—	419
Cain, Rev. J., and Mr. H. H. Ward. Letters from — on the condition of the Godavari hillmen (App. 12)	402

	PAGE.
Cattle and fodder supply	372
——. Operations for saving — by provision of fodder	373
——. Result of inspection of purchased — after delivery	407
Chairman's journey up the river Godavari	370
—— supervision of arrangements	378
Charity. Attempts to abuse — defeated	393
——. Private —	369, 403, 421
Children. Independence of people and starvation of — by parents	371, 372
Cheating. One attempt at —	399
Cholera during distribution	419
Clothing. Improper attempts to obtain —	401, 406
—— Mrs. Hauser's	369, 406, 411
Clothing to babies	411
Collections. Statement showing — by various District Committees up to 31st October 1897 (App. 3)	390
Collectors personally distributed large sums	379, 419
—— services	372
Committee. Formation of the Executive —	365
——. Report on the operations of the Executive —	359
——, Provincial Formation of the — (App. 2)	389
——. Members of the — (App. 1)	387
Conclusion	380
Crops. Statement showing outturn of —	363
——. Successive failures of —	362
Cultivators. Grants made to — entirely by District Officers	398, 407
——. Description of relief given —	379, 392
——. Instructions for —	377, 378
——. Relief of —	376
Distress. Series of unfavourable seasons leading up to —	362, 363
Distressed Area. Extent of —	359
Distribution of Funds	367
District Committees. Memorandum to — in the Deccan Districts	377
—— reports. Bellary	404
Cuddapah	416, 417
Ganjam	392, 394
Godavari	399
Haradool	408
Malabar	420
——. Vizagapatam	396, 397
Districts severely affected	359
Doles in money. See Grain . . . . .	...
Extortion by village officials	405, 415
Famine of 1876-77. Districts not recovered from —	360
——. See Histories.	
Fodder and cattle supply	37
—— depots. Statement of —. (App. 4)	391
——. Grants to keep cattle alive	406, 41
Form B.—Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	424
—— C. Cash account from the commencement of operations up to the 15th December 1897	432
—— D. Statement of receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Com- mittee from the commencement of the Fund up to 15th December 1897	433
—— E. Ditto of expenditure ditto ditto	ib.
—— C. Final balance sheet	434
Godavari hillmen. See Cain.	
Grain. Importation of — found necessary	400
——. Imports of — into the Deccan districts	362, 363
—— doles. Advantages of cash or money over—	368
—— shops. Cheap —	400, 421
—— traffic. Analysis of the statistics of — by rail	352
Gratitude	396, 414
Gratuitous relief entirely undertaken by fund at first	367, 417
Hauser, Mrs. Value of clothes sent by —	406
Hill people living on leaves and roots	397
Hill tribes. Relief of —	369

	PAGE.
Histories. Previous Famine — of affected districts	360
Houses. Aid in rebuilding —	398
Independence of people and starvation of children	371, 372
Improper persons. Attempts to obtain charity by —	393
James, Mr. H. E. M. Usefulness of his visit	366
Kurnool. Relief in the town of —	411
Madras. Public meeting at —	365, 383
Memorandum to District Committees in the Deccan Districts	377
Missionaries. Aid given by —	402, 403
Object IV. Distribution of money for — by Collector of Cuddapah	379
———. Other operations under —	376
Officials. Extortion by village —	415
Orphans	380
Palkanda Agency. Relief in —	396
Purdahnishins. Emaciated —	414
Patent foods	395
Persons relieved and sums spent. Abstract statement of —	391
Preliminary operations	365
Receipts and disbursements	359
Relief. See Palkanda.	
Subscriptions, Letters and Telegrams	386
Valedictory doles. See Weavers.	
Ward, Mr. H. H. See Cain.	
Weavers. General relief from fund to — abandoned	376
———. Relief to —	393, 419
———. Large Valedictory doles	419
Wild Tribes. Relief of —	369, 399

PUNJAB PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Accounts. See Review.	
Acknowledgement of Services	
Affiliation of Local Committees	
Allotments	441
——— to districts	444
Artizans	446
——— in Ludhiana, Relief	440
——— and comforts in	445
Audits	460
Relief of women. Relief of — at Amritsar	460
Relator of Accounts of Local Committees. Appointment of Mr. S. S. Harris	448
——— Obstruction given to —	465
———'s report	526
Balance. Disposal of — with the Provincial Committee	449
——— s. Ditto District Committees	448
Baptist and Zenana Missions. Valuable Services of —	515
Blankets. Distribution of —	443, 445
Bose, Miss. Work of — amongst women	528
Butler, Mr. M. S. D. Laborious work of —	454
———. Letter from —	501
Cattle. Branding of —	463
———. Failure of scheme to buy —	460
Cattle, Great loss of —	443, 453, 457, 462, 463
Causes of the present famine, Hissar	506
Charity anterior to the Fund	441, 451, 455, 456, 469, 508
Children's scrap books	527
Classes distressed. Other —	440
Clothes. Account of distribution by Miss Fox and Miss Healy	527
——— distributed to relief workers	443
——— received from England	447
——— Mrs. Hauser's	450, 519
——— Too good	519
——— Distribution of —	447
——— Ditto by Zenana Baptist Mission	527

	PAGE
Committee Appointment of Provincial—	442
———Formation of an Executive—(App. A) .	476
———Objects of the Provincial—	442
———Members of the Executive—(App. A) .	476
———Ditto Provincial—	479
———Proceedings of meetings of the Provincial Executive—	477 to 500
———s. Formation of Local or District—	442
———Work of District	451
Conclusion of operations .	449
Condition. <i>See</i> Economic.	
Crops. Failures of—	437, 438
Cultivators. Careful distribution to—in :—	
Ferozepore	456
Gujranwala	467
Hissar	453
Jhang	462
Lahore	460
Ludhiana	457
Sialkot	467
———Description of distribution to—in Hissar	521
———Distribution and general advances to—	453
———Objectionable mode of distribution to—in Dera-Ismail-Khan	468
———Security erroneously demanded from—	465, 466
Delhi. Respectable classes of—	451
Description of the Province .	437
Distress. Seasons preceding the time of —	437
——— <i>see</i> Zamindars.	
Distressed classes .	440
Distribution to divisions	446
Districts needing relief .	443
District reports—	
Amballa	455
Amritsar	460
Bannu	468
Delhi	451
Dera-Ghazi-Khan	468
Dera-Ismail-Khan	468
Ferozepore	458
Gujranwalla	467
Gujrat	466
Gurgaon	452
Gurdaspur	470
Hazara and Kohat	470
Hissar	453, 503
Hoshiarpur	457
Jhang	462
Jhelum	464
Jullundar	456
Kangra	456
Karnal	453
Kohat	470
Kulu	456
Lahore	459
Ludhiana	456
Montgomery	462
Mooltan	461
Muzaffargarh	470
Peshawar	469
Rawalpindi	463
Rohtak	452
Shahpur	465
Sialkot	466
Simla	456
Dunlop-Smith, Captain, Excellent work by—	454
Economic condition of the province	439

	PAGE
Estimates submitted by Local Committees	443
Famines. Brief account of previous—(Hissar)	504
Ferozepore District	441
Financial results of the working of Provincial Committee	449
Fitzpatrick, Sir Dennis—Speech by—	471
Fodder. Famine—	440
Form B. Statement shewing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	532
—C. Cash account from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	549
—D. Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897,	550
—E. Ditto of expenditure ditto ditto	551
—C. Final Balance Sheet	552
Government officers employed for relief from Fund	517
Grain shops. cheap—. Device to prevent abuse of —	512
—formed at Delhi	445
—in Jhelum	464
—Lahore	455, 459
—Mooltan	461
—Montgomery	462
—Peshawar	469
—Rawal Pindi	464
—Sialkot	467
—Umballa	455
—Unpopular — at Rohtak and Hissar	451, 511
Gratitude of the people	525, 526, 527
Gujrat district	449
Houses. Gifts for rebuilding—	458, 468
James. Visit of the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M.—	445
Labourers and Artizans	440
Lahore. Public meeting at—	422
Land. Proposal to redeem —	444
Leper Asylum at Sabathu.—Aid to —	444
Ludhiana Committee	448
Missionaries. Committees aided by —	452
Missionary Ladies. Distribution of clothes by—	447
—Invaluable work by—	449
—at Amritsar	461
—Bhiwani	515
—Hissar	454
—Lahore	446, 527
—Ludhiana	456
—Rewari	452
—Umballa	456
Nicoll. Mr.—Excellent work by the late— at Amritsar	460, 461
Object III allotments under—	444
—IV. Distribution under— by the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore	459
—Distribution of money	521
Operations, <i>see</i> Conclusion.	
Orphanages	449
Patent Foods	450, 466
People, sending of — to their homes	520
Poor houses, comforts in—	518
—Private—	516
Previous famines, <i>see</i> Famines . . . . .	...
Prices. Rise in—	439
—of wheat, maize and barley. Statement showing— from 1880 to 1897	439
Prospects. Present—	438
Province, <i>see</i> Descriptions.	
Province, <i>see</i> Economic.	
Redemption of lands by Fund money, disapproved	448
Relief in Delhi for 12 months	451
—Hissar	453
—of women and artizans at Amritsar	460
Requirements of the Province	443

	PAGE.
Respectable classes relieved in Delhi	451
— Umballa	455
Respectable poor	440
Review and summary of the results of the inspections of accounts of the various District Com- mittees in the Punjab by Mr. S. S. Harris	526
Seasons, <i>see</i> Distress.	
Seed-grain. Grants of —	465
Subscriptions. Bishops of Church of England agree to collect —	473
— Private —	441
Unsystematic relief	508
Valedictory doles	518, 520
Value of Fund	525
Weavers, Artizans. Assistance to —	444
— Excellent relief at Amritsar	460
— Ludhiana	457
Women. Report of the work done amongst destitute — of Lahore	459
— Other classes distressed	440
Work given by Fund Committee	518
— Ladies	455, 459, 461, 515
— Miss Bose. Description of —	548
Zamindars. Causes of distress amongst —	439

CENTRAL INDIA PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Acknowledgment of services rendered by the Ladies of the American Mission, Nowgong	565
Agent to the Governor General — Letter from	553
Allotments received from the Central Committee	<i>ib.</i>
American Mission—Ladies of the —	565
Area affected	554
— and physical condition, Baghelkhand agency	567
— , Gwalior State	575
Balance in hand—Disposal of —	554
Baghelkhand — Report on relief from fund in —	567
Bundelkhand — Notice of States in —	558
Charitable Fund — Good work done by the —	554
Charitable Fund — Great value of —. Colonel Barr's extract	554
— <i>See</i> Indian.	
Charity anterior to Famine Fund	563, 568
Clothes — Distribution of — in Gwalior	576
Committee in Baghelkhand Members of —	571
— Gwalior	575
— Gwalior —	575
— persons other than members who assisted in the distribution of the Fund in various parts of Baghelkhand	572
Condition of the people. Previous seasons and —	557
Crops — Baghelkhand —	568
— Condition of — previous to, and during, the famine in Baghelkhand	568
— grown in Baghelkhand. Nature and relative importance of the —	567
Cultivators — Advances to — in Gwalior	576
— Value of fund to —	570
Customs of the people. Special —, Baghelkhand	568
Dacoity in Bundelkhand	557
District reports—	
Baghelkhand	567
Bundelkhand Agency	557
Gwalior	575
Expenditure — <i>See</i> Objects.	
Famine—Extent of the —	554

	PAGE.
Form B.—Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	579
—C.—Cash account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	587
—D.—Statement of Receipts of the District Committees from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897	588
—E.—Ditto Expenditure ditto ditto	ib.
—C.—Final Balance Sheet	589
Gratitude of the people—and good effected by the Fund	554, 555
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and private charity. Administration of— in Bundelkhand	563
Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General	553
Notice of each State in Bundelkhand	558 to 563
Object IV—Benefits under — in Baghelkhand	570
Objects I to IV—Expenditure under—in each agency	553
Orphanages—Allotments to —	554
Persons relieved. Number of —	ib.
Relief from fund in Bundelkhand	560
—afforded under each of the four objects in Baghelkhand	569
—System of —	563
Seasons—Succession of bad — in Bundelkhand	557
—Previous — and condition of the people	ib.
Subscriptions—Amount received from local —	553
Thanks of the Provincial Committee for aid afforded from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund	ib.

BURMA PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE.
Affected areas, Meiktila district	599
—, Myingyan	594
—, Yamethin	593
Agency for distribution of relief, Myingyan district	596
Clothes, distribution of —	597
Committee. Formation of the District —, Myingyan	596
—members of the District —, Myingyan	596
—ditto Local —, Yamethin	594
Crops, outturn of —, in the Meiktila district	599
—of the Myingyan district, destruction of described.	595
—grown in Yamethin	593
Cultivators. Value of gifts to —	597
—sharing each other's gifts	598
Destitute persons. Transportation of—to Mandalay	597, 600
Distribution of money in the Yamethin district	594
District reports—Meiktila 599, Myingyan 594, Yamethin	593
Form B.—Statement shewing relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	601
—C.—Cash account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	603
—D.—Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897	604
—E.—Ditto Expenditure ditto ditto	ib.
—C.—Final Balance Sheet	675
Fund. Value of the —	599
Impersonation—punishment for	596
Money, <i>see</i> Distribution.	
Occupation of the people of the Yamethin district	593
Physical features of Myingyan	594
Relief, <i>see</i> Agency.	
Revenue collections. Statement of — in 1896-97	593
Seed. Supply of—in the Myingyan district	598
Transportation of destitute persons to Mandalay	597, 600
Valedictory doles in the Myingyan district	598

BERAR PROVINCIAL REPORT.

	PAGE
Acknowledgment of services and subscriptions	605, 627 to 629
Agricultural labouring classes. Statement showing the proportion of the— in each district and the percentage of those really interested in agriculture to the total population	611
Area in which there was distress	611
Cattle. Distribution of—	624
— Limited right given over plough—	624
Charitable Fund. Relief actually given by—	622
Charity. Local— anterior to the Fund	615
Committee. Organisation of—	618 to 620
— Members of the Executive Provincial—	618
— s. Members of District—, Akola 618, Basin 620, Buldana 619, Ellichpur 619, Wun	620
— Persons other than Members of— specially mentioned for services rendered	620
— Work of Provincial in distributing the Fund, etc.	627
Condition, <i>see</i> Economic.	
— <i>see</i> Physical.	
Crops. Nature and relative importance of the— grown	609
— Two years' failures of— in Melghat	611
Distressed area.	611
— Classification of—	613
Economic condition of the people	610
Famine, Pressure of the—	613
— districts. Four classes of—	613
Form B. Statement shewing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897	632
— C. Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897	645
— D. Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund up to 31st October 1897	646
— E. Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund up to 31st October 1897	ib.
— C. Final Balance Sheet	647
Grain. Importation of— into the Melghat	625
Harvest of 1896-97. Nature and extent of the—	613
— Table showing the estimated outturn of— per acre during 1896-97	
— compared with the three preceding years	614
Hilly tracts. Importation of food, etc., into—	625
Honorary, <i>see</i> Secretaries.	
Melghat. Lives saved by the Fund	605
— <i>see</i> Crops.	
— <i>see</i> Relief.	
— <i>see</i> Wild Tribes.	
Object I. Expenditure under—	622
— II. "	623
— III. "	624
— IV. "	ib.
Occupation of the people	611
Orphans. Expenditure upon—	623
Persons relieved and sums spent. Abstract of—	644
Poor-houses. Munificent relief in private—	616, 617
— Large numbers fed at—	615
— Private—	615
Prices. Statement shewing the average— of food-grains for 3 years	612
Receipts and Expenditure	621, 622
Relief. Modes of— in the Melghat	621
Secretaries, Honorary—. Commissioner's commendation of—	627
Subscriptions	618
Wild tribes of the Melghat	611

BALUCHISTAN REPORT.

	PAGE.
Agent to the Governor-General. Letter from—	649
Barkan Tahsil	652
Bullocks. Grants for—in Sibi Tahsil	ib.
Duki Tahsil	
Introduction	651
Maintenance. Grants for—in Sibi Tahsil	652
Money. Manner in which distributed in Sibi Tahsil	ib.
Persons recommended for relief. General selection of—	"
Relief. Account of—administered in the Sibi Tahsil	"
——Operations. Winding up of—	"
Seed. Grants for—in Sibi Tahsil	"
Sibi Tahsil	"
Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 3rd December 1897	653
——of Receipts and Disbursements from the commencement up to 3rd December 1897	ib.

RAJPUTANA REPORT.

	PAGE.
Distressed states. Description of—	657
Form B.—Particulars of the Charitable Fund expenditure	665
——C.—Cash account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897	666
——Final Balance Sheet	667
Jaisalmer State	659
Letter from the 1st Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General	655
Rainfall	657
Tonk State. Relief in—	661

Clothing received from England, America and elsewhere. Statement of distribution	671
Addendum	676
Corrigenda	ib.

R E P O R T of the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh up to 31st October 1897.

ON the 25th of January 1897, a public meeting was held at Lucknow to consider the proceedings of the public meeting held in Calcutta on the 14th of January 1897, and to form for these Provinces a Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The resolutions passed and the names of the members of the Committee appointed at that meeting are contained in Appendix A. The changes in the members of the Committee are also shown in that Appendix. The General Committee was never called together in meeting, but the members received reports of the progress of operations. The Executive Committee was formed into two Branches, the North-Western Provinces Branch and the Oudh Branch, which were entrusted with the control of the District Committees in their respective provinces.

Institution of Fund.

2. The Executive Committee held its first meeting on the 4th of February at Lucknow, when rules regarding the conduct of the Committee's business were agreed upon and the necessary steps were taken for raising subscriptions, for obtaining remittances from the Central Committee, and for allotting such funds as might become available between districts. The subsequent meetings were held at Allahabad. Owing to the distance between the two places, it was unfortunately very rarely that a member of the Oudh Branch Committee was able to be present; but as there was never any disagreement in the views of the two Branches, this matter was not of very great importance.

Formation of Committee.

3. Arrangements for the banking of the Committee's Funds were made with the Bank of Bengal at Allahabad and Lucknow. All receipts, except sums specially subscribed for districts, or for one Province in particular, were in the first instance passed into the Executive Committee's account, and from that account allotments were made to the two Branches in accordance with the advice of the Local Government, which was asked and given at every stage of the operations. The total receipts by the Executive Committee proper, on account of these Provinces up to the 31st of October 1897, were Rs. 47,47,485-2-7, which was thus made up:—

Statement of Funds.
Executive Committee.

			Rs.	a.	p.
Appropriations out of the General Fund	...	...	46,65,857	10	0
Subscriptions for those Provinces received by Central Committee	...	...	2,906	2	1
Subscriptions for the Provincial Fund received* by the Provincial Committee	...	...	78,721	6	6

This was disposed of as follows:—

			Rs.	a.	p.
Appropriations to the North-Western Provinces Branch	...	...	33,16,076	10	0
Appropriations to the Oudh Branch	...	...	13,44,000	0	0
Banking charges	...	...	13	2	0
Purchase of clothing and payment of freight on blankets and clothing	...	...	2,416	14	3
Payment to papers for advertisement of subscriptions	...	...	445	2	0
Office charges	...	...	453	2	8
Salaries	...	...	941	1	3
Payments direct to Local Committees of funds received from Calcutta	...	...	1,000	0	0
Balance on 31st October 1897	...	...	82,139	2	5
Total	...	...	47,47,485	2	7

Very little expenditure was incurred by the Committee, or the Committee's Branches, on ordinary printing work, as the Local Government allowed free printing with the Government Press at Allahabad to the value of Rs. 2,000, while the Express Printing Office, Lucknow, did a large amount of printing gratis for the Oudh Branch.

* Either direct or through districts.

Remittances from the
Central Committee,
Calcutta.

4. As soon as the Committee was formed, it was called upon by the Central Committee to furnish estimates of the amount required for relief under the four objects to which the Fund was to be applied for the whole of these Provinces. The first estimate was sent by telegram on the 7th of February; 20 lakhs were asked for relief under objects I and III and 10 lakhs for relief under object IV. This estimate was raised by a letter of the 24th of February 1897 to 40 lakhs: the additional 10 lakhs being for use under object IV. A more detailed estimate being called for by the Central Committee, a further revised estimate, amounting to 64½ lakhs, was sent on the 17th of March 1897; of this 40 lakhs were for object IV and the remainder were for objects I and III; nothing was asked for to meet the costs of maintaining orphans after the conclusion of the Famine. Again in June the Central Committee called for further estimates, which were supplied on the 12th of July. The remittances actually received from the Central Committee up to the date of that estimate had amounted to Rs. 40,18,562. A further sum of Rs. 12,11,700 was asked for, which included a sum of five lakhs on account of orphans. Excluding the provision for orphans, the Provincial Committee therefore may be taken to have estimated on the 12th of July 1897 that its total requirements from the Central Committee would be about Rs. 47,30,000. The amount actually received up to the 31st October was Rs. 46,68,763-12-1, of which Rs. 2,906-2-1 consisted of subscriptions paid in specially for these Provinces.

Formation of District
Committees.

5. On the day following the first meeting of the Provincial Committee at Lucknow all heads of districts in the United Provinces were addressed with the view to their taking steps to form a Local Committee in each district for the collection of subscriptions and for the organization of charitable relief in those districts where relief was required. In very many districts action had already been taken, in some districts many months before the institution of the Charitable Fund; for instance, in the districts of Muttra, Agra, Lucknow, Allahabad, Etah, Etāwah, Bijnor, Gorakhpur and others (*vide* District Reports printed as Appendix E). All pre-existing relief committees in the Provinces, of which information could be obtained, were affiliated as Local Committees of the Fund, and the accounts presented with this report include, so far as possible, an account of all the money collected and expended by them, even in the period before the institution of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Periodical returns.

6. In accordance with the request of the Central Committee, simple forms of returns were issued to all districts to be filled up half-monthly, and the Local Committees were asked to frame estimates of their requirements and to send in complete lists of their subscriptions. The estimates framed by the local authorities were, however, of little practical use, and the distributions of funds made by the Provincial Committee and its two Branches were based as a rule upon information and advice given by the Local Government after consideration of the local income and balances of each district. The half-monthly returns were generally carefully prepared and punctually despatched.

Principles of distribution.

7. Immediately upon its formation, the Provincial Committee received applications from a number of charitable bodies and a few missionaries and other ministers of religion. All such applicants were referred to the Local Committees of the Fund, it being accepted as a general principle that the Provincial Committee should make payments only to its two Branches, and the two Branches only to their respective Local Committees, and that these should make the most suitable arrangements for the proper distribution of relief. As an example reference may be made to Circular letter No. 111, dated 3rd April 1897, which is printed as Appendix B. This principle was only departed from in very few instances; for instance four Superintending Engineers were provided with funds for the supply of clothing to such people on the works under the Public Works Department as were in urgent need of them. How this was effected is shown in the reports received from some of their subordinate officers, which are printed as Appendix D to this report. The Commissioner of Agra was also given funds on two or three occasions for assistance to orphanages and to

food-distributing agencies in the Agra district. Commissioners of Divisions were provided with funds in the beginning of the operations for the provision of clothing to persons urgently in need of it other than those employed on the works under the Public Works Department. But all these remittances to Commissioners were afterwards treated as direct remittances to the districts between which the grants were distributed by the Commissioners. The only instance of direct outlay by the Provincial Committee was in March 1897, when the Provincial Committee itself purchased a large number of woollen belts and jerseys from the Cawnpore Woollen Mills and distributed them among various districts at a cost of Rs. 2,290-7-3.

8. At the end of February there were general reports of enormous sales of cattle in the distressed districts owing to the cultivators being unable to find fodder for them. Inquiries were made by the Committee as to the necessity of making advances for the support of plough-cattle, and the Local Government was addressed regarding the opening of reserved forests. But it eventually appeared that the sales of cattle were mainly not of plough-cattle, and that the cattle that were being sold were sold more because their value was required for the support of the cultivator and his family than owing to the scarcity of food for the cattle themselves; consequently no advances were made for this purpose.

Provision for maintenance of cattle.

9. In February the Central Committee purchased 3,000 blankets in Calcutta for the North-Western Provinces. These were distributed between six districts, viz., Cawnpore, Hamirpur, Banda, Allahabad, Jalaun, and Mirzapur.

Gifts of food and clothing from the Central Committee and England.

Early in the month of March inquiries were made by the Central Committee whether use could be made in these Provinces of a number of cases of Patent Food. These were eagerly applied for, and a large portion of the total number of cases available were supplied to these Provinces. An account of the usefulness of them has already been given in the First Report of the Central Executive Committee, and the Provincial Committee need now do nothing more than express its thanks to the donors of the gifts. The same may be said of the gifts of clothing which were made in the month of May and the following months. At the end of the month of September the Local Committee at Benares generously offered 3,722 *dhotis* which had been manufactured by weavers employed by the Fund in Benares, and were not required in that place for distribution, for transmission to other districts in the Province where they would be more useful. They were accordingly sent to the districts of Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, and Jalaun.

10. Some account has already been given of the estimates framed by the Provincial Committee of the amount required for relief in these Provinces. But it may be well to give further details regarding the provision of money for the purchase of cattle and seed. Towards the end of March 1897, it was announced in newspapers that the Central Committee intended to make a distribution for this purpose in the middle of May. Thereupon the Provincial Committee addressed the Central Committee, and asked that the distribution for this purpose might be made at once, inasmuch as if the money was to be distributed in time for the purchase of cattle so as to admit of the ploughing and sowing for the autumn harvest taking place at the proper season, there was no time to be lost. The estimate made of the requirements of these Provinces for this purpose by the Local Government was 40 lakhs; and this was the sum for which the Provincial Committee made repeated request to the Central Committee. But the Central Committee was unable to make appropriations to these Provinces of an amount sufficient to provide the sum of 40 lakhs for this purpose, and it was only by careful management and by utilizing the balances of several Local Committees that it was possible for the Provincial Committee to arrange for the distribution of 30 lakhs in time for the *kharif* sowings. Of this 21 lakhs went to the North-Western Provinces and 9 lakhs to Oudh. The Oudh Branch Committee out of the funds at its disposal was able before the 15th of June to add a further sum of Rs. 80,000. Later in July the Executive Committee upon

Object IV.

receipt of a sum of 5½ lakhs from the Central Committee, was able to make a further distribution of Rs. 5,10,000 between the two Branches for this purpose. Of this sum Rs. 4,10,000 was given to the North-Western Provinces Branch and Rs. 1,00,000 to the Oudh Branch. The Executive Committee thus distributed to the two Branches Rs. 5,10,000 for object IV; of which Rs. 10,00,000 went to the Oudh Branch and the remainder to the North-Western Provinces Branch, viz., Rs. 25,10,000. The actual distribution by districts from the North-Western Provinces Branch amounted to Rs. 27,95,000; Rs. 5,000 being thus left undistributed by the North-Western Provinces Branch. The Oudh Branch distributed Rs. 10,73,000 out of the Rs. 10,80,000 which it resolved to distribute. The actual payments in relief under this head up to 31st October 1897 amounted to Rs. 35,61,253-8-2. The provision of actual coin in the different District Treasuries for the disbursement of these large sums caused a considerable amount of trouble to the Government Currency officers, to whom the thanks of the Provincial Committee are due for the excellent arrangements which they were able to make.

orphans. 11. The question of orphans has already been dealt with on page 24 of the First Report of the Central Committee. The following is the only additional information at present available. The number of orphans and waifs to be provided for is 1,586. They are being supported by the Fund pending their distribution among recognised orphanages for permanent support. This distribution is in progress, and all the balance of the Provincial Committee will be made over to the Government to form an endowment for them. Besides this balance a further remittance is expected awaited from the Central Committee, which is required to render the endowment adequate.

supervision of expenditure made by Local Committees. 12. When the operations of the Fund began, it was a matter of some difficulty to compare the outlay on relief in the several districts and to see whether economy was being exercised and relief not being given in operations not authorized by the constitutional rules of the Fund. The returns from the districts were not numerous at first, and those that were received were not prepared in an uniform manner. Gradually the returns were improved in number and accuracy, and it was then possible to say where expenditure was excessive and where it was inadequate. By the end of April the Committee was in a position to issue directions for economy to the effect that the Fund was not to be used in supersession of Government expenditure and that money saved by Local Committees under objects I and III might properly be devoted to increasing the amount under object IV (*vide* Appendix C). Nearly a month after this circular was issued, Circular No. 837 of the Central Committee, with detailed directions for economy, was received and circulated at once to all Local Committees. Again towards the end of the month of July, when it was possible to make an exact forecast of the resources which would be at the disposal of the Committee and of the expenditure which would be necessary until the close of the famine, the Provincial Committee made a close examination of the expenditure and balances in each district, and revised its normal scale of monthly grants. At the same time it commented on the rates of relief and on the classes of persons who were in receipt of relief in several districts, and made suggestions regarding the most effectual use of the funds already in the Local Committees' hands. It also then called in the balances of two or three districts where relief had come to an end, and as relief ceased in other districts from time to time their balances were also called in. Finally, on the 29th of October, under the advice of the Government, directions were issued that all expenditure on relief should be suspended; and on the 3rd of November followed orders that all relief should cease on the 6th of November, except such charges as were absolutely necessary; and all outstanding balances were called in. The Provincial Committee believes that on the whole the operations of the Fund were carried out in the most economical manner. This was in a large measure due to the fact that the Local Committees were good working bodies, and that their labours were carried out in concert with the local officers of the Government.

13. At the commencement of the operations of the Fund the Provincial Committee was requested by the Central Committee to issue such instructions as were necessary to Local Committees as would ensure proper accounts being kept. The instructions issued were simply to the effect that the accounts need not be very elaborate, but that they should be in such form that the particulars required for the half-monthly returns prescribed by the Central Committee might be easily obtained from them. The required returns were, as has already been mentioned, furnished generally with accuracy and punctuality. In May further instructions were issued by the Central Committee. They recommended the appointment of an Honorary Accountant in each district and insisted on the necessity for vouchers being filed along with the accounts. These instructions were communicated to districts with some further observations by the Provincial Committee, and this Committee is pleased to be able to say that, from the correspondence and returns received in its office and from the reports of the Auditor who was appointed at the end of September in accordance with the wishes of the Central Committee to examine the accounts of the most important Local Committees, it appears that the local accounts were in all cases kept with great accuracy and completeness, that all payments were properly vouched for, and that the expenditure was not open to objection. A copy of the Auditor's final report is printed as Appendix F to this report.

Accounts and Audit.

14. The statement of the funds of the Executive Committee has been given in paragraph 3 above. It will be seen there that the Executive Committee made appropriations to the North-Western Provinces Branch, amounting to Rs. 33,16,076-10-0. The only other receipts of the Branch were subscriptions amounting to Rs. 4,424-12-0, the total income of the Branch being thus Rs. 33,20,501-6-0. Out of this sum appropriations were made to districts which, after allowing for refunds of unexpended balances made before the 31st of October, stood finally at the following amounts :—

North-Western Provinces Branch Account.

						Rs.	a.	p.
Object I	...	...	...	...	...	28,485	6	0
Do. II	...	...	...	...	...	500	0	0
Do. III	...	...	...	...	...	7,67,350	9	6
Do. IV	...	...	...	...	...	25,05,000	0	0

The sum entered against object I is the net expenditure through Commissioners of Divisions and by Superintending Engineers of the Public Works Department, out of the Rs. 30,000 in the first instance allotted to them by this Branch as mentioned in paragraph 7. The Rs. 500 against object II was paid direct to certain orphanages at Agra through the Commissioner of that Division; but this was afterwards shown in the Agra Committee's accounts. The sum shown against object III includes the allotments made to districts for expenditure under objects I, II, and III, it being found impossible to make separate allotments for these heads to districts. The only other expenditure of this Branch, besides the appropriations mentioned above, was a charge of Rs. 8-3-0 made by the Bank for receipt stamps and cheques. The balance in the hands of the Branch on the 31st of October was Rs. 19,157-3-6.

15. The Oudh Branch received Rs. 13,44,000 from the Committee and Rs.* 46,542-5-11 in subscriptions, a large part of which was contributed by the talúqdárs of that Province either individually or through their association. The total receipts of the Oudh Branch were Rs. 13,90,542-5-11. This was thus spent :—

Oudh Branch Funds.

						Rs.	a.	p.
Object I	...	...	...	...	...	19,500	0	0
Do. III	...	...	...	...	...	2,87,310	0	0
Do. IV	...	...	...	...	...	10,70,500	0	0
Miscellaneous expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	1,010	5	0

The amount entered against object I includes a sum of Rs. 17,000 given to the Superintending Engineer for the purchase of clothing as already mentioned, while Rs. 2,500 was given to doctors for the provision of food and clothing for

* Partly through districts.

famine patients in hospitals. Of the sum received by the Superintending Engineer Rs. 6,251-13-3 was in fact not expended, but was not refunded till after 31st October 1897. The entry against object III covers also objects I and II, as already noted above with regard to the North-Western Provinces Branch. It also includes a sum of Rs. 10,000, allotted to a society which has been inaugurated in Lucknow for the purpose of helping the *bidri* and *chikan* workers and other unemployed workpeople of Lucknow, Sandila, Jais, and elsewhere. These people, especially in Lucknow, were largely out of work. Many of them were women, and it was hoped by purchasing their best work and giving them advances to tide them over the worst time. The purchases made have been forwarded to England and sold through the Society for the Preservation of Indian Art. The miscellaneous expenditure in the Oudh Branch was larger than in the North-Western Provinces Branch, because it was necessary to maintain an office at Lucknow, while the work of the North-Western Provinces Branch was carried on in the office of the Executive Committee. The balance in the hands of the Oudh Branch on the 31st of October amounted to Rs. 12,222-0-11.

The following brief account of the proceedings of the Oudh Branch has been prepared by its Secretary :—

“It is not necessary to review in detail the proceedings of the Committee. The actual distribution of money was made almost entirely through District Officers, the Committee keeping itself informed of the requirements of different districts, and holding frequent meetings for the purpose of allotting funds and prescribing the proportions in which they should be devoted to each of the objects held in view by the Central Committee. It is unnecessary to deal with the minor points which came up for discussion from time to time. Only a few of the more important matters dealt with by the Committee will now be noticed.

“The first question that had to be dealt with by the Committee was that of apportioning between Government and the Relief Fund the expenditure under head III in Lucknow City. It being recognised that the liability of Government in this connection must be measured by its responsibility for maintaining life, it was considered by the Committee that Government might fairly be asked to contribute one-third of the total amount expended, and this proposal was agreed to by the Commissioner on behalf of Government. The total expenditure likely to be incurred was estimated at Rs. 2,00,000, and a sum of Rs. 66,000 has accordingly been contributed by Government. The actual expenditure has amounted to Rs. 2,25,590, so that the Government contribution bears to it a somewhat smaller proportion than that originally intended by the Committee.

“On 7th April 1897, the Committee considered a proposal made by the Deputy Commissioner of Unao that the minimum dole to *parda-nashin* women should be raised from 1 anna to 2 annas per diem, the former rate being considered inadequate for the support of life. The Committee however was of opinion that the allotments made by it must be regarded as a subsidiary allowance for the supply of comforts, and not a subsistence allowance for the support of life, the latter duty being undertaken by Government, and negatived the proposals. The actual doles given varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per meusem.

“In dealing with the question of distributing relief under head IV a large latitude was left to District Officers, the Committee making no attempt to prescribe any uniform sum to be given to each cultivator. The Committee merely laid down the general principles that zamindárs and talúqdárs should, as far as possible, be associated with the officials engaged in the preparation of lists of persons to be relieved; but that the actual distribution of money should in all cases be made by officers of the district staff; while in order to ensure that the money should be actually expended in purchase of cattle and not in liquidation of debts to moneylenders, &c., zamindárs and patwáris were required to report within a month which of the recipients of relief had actually expended the money on the purchase of the cattle.

"The question of providing for the support of orphans after the conclusion of Famine operations came before the Committee in September 1897. Bábu Sri Ram suggested the establishment at Lucknow of a Central Orphanage for Oudh; but the Committee, while recognising the need of such an institution, was of opinion that the establishment of a permanent endowment of the nature would hardly be within the legitimate scope of the Fund, and solicited the opinion of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject. Before any decision in this matter had been arrived at information was received that, in the closing of famine relief operations, the support of orphans would be undertaken by Government out of moneys provided by the Fund. The balances in the hand of District Officers after 6th November were accordingly collected and remitted to Allahabad for this purpose; and the arrangements for the support of orphans are now entirely in the hands of Government.

"In the addition to the sums allotted to District Officers for distribution, the following sums were distributed under head I:—

- (a) Colonel Pulford, R. E., Rs. 17,000* for the supply of clothing for persons employed in relief works;
- (b) Commissioner, Fyzabad, Rs. 3,000† for the supply of clothing for persons employed in relief works;
- (c) Commissioner, Lucknow, Rs. 5,000† for the supply of clothing for persons employed in relief works;
- (d) Dr. McConaghey, Rs. 1,500 for supply of comforts for the poor in hospitals;
- (e) King's Poorhouse, Rs. 1,000;
- (f) Society for the Encouragement and Preservation of Indian Arts, Rs. 10,000. This sum was granted on the understanding that it should be expended in providing work and materials for needy artisans, and that payments should be made direct to the artisans and not through middlemen."

* Of this Rs. 6,251-13-3 was refunded, together with Rs. 80-8-9 interest.

† Accounted for in districts, except Rs. 100 accounted for under head "Miscellaneous" of the Oudh Branch.

The whole of this last-mentioned sum has not been expended upon the purpose for which it was given, and demand has been made for repayment of the balance.

16. In every district in which relief was given and in several in which there was no distress, subscriptions for local use were received towards the objects of the Fund. These amounted to Rs. 2,60,771-11-8 in the districts of the North-Western Provinces and Rs. 77,129-8-11 in the districts of Oudh. In several districts the amounts subscribed were very large: in particular the following:—

District receipts.

	Rs.	a.	p.		Rs.	a.	p.
Cawnpore ...	47,144	14	7	Etah ...	17,088	2	9
Lucknow city ...	33,774	12	6	Etawah ...	14,826	2	9
Allahabad ...	30,279	6	9	Muttra ...	13,641	10	0
Agra ...	23,407	14	0	Bijnor ...	13,641	7	3

Besides the above in 12 districts the local subscriptions exceeded Rs. 5,000 each, and in 13 more they exceeded Rs. 2,500. Besides subscriptions there were other receipts in districts, amounting to Rs. 2,792-8-11. This was mostly from the sale of work done by weavers who were furnished with employment by the Fund. This sum would be considerably increased if the *dhotis* made in Benares, which have already been mentioned, had been sold instead of being given away; while considerable amounts were still to be realized on this account in Agra and Hardoi."

17. The total amount of subscriptions received—Rs. 4,74,597-6-11—includes a very large number of subscriptions of Rs. 1,000 and over, either to the General Fund or to one or other of the District Lists. A list of these large subscriptions, as complete as it can be made, is as follows:—

Subscriptions.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Lala Nand Lal Partab Singh, Dehra Dún ...	1,000	0	0
His Highness the Rájá of Nahán ...	1,000	0	0
The Hon'ble Seth Lachman Das, C.I.E., Muttra ...	5,250	0	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
E. John, Esq., Agra ...	1,000	0	0
The Banias of Simsonganj, Agra ...	1,965	0	0
Ráni Lalli Das Kunwar and Thákur Umrao Singh, Agra ...	2,000	0	0
H. M. Bird, Esq., C.S....	1,600	0	0
Lála Jagan Prasad, Raís, Muttra ...	1,200	0	0
Seth Keshab Deo, Muttra ...	1,200	0	0
Lála Janki Prasad, Muttra ...	1,000	0	0
Ram Kishore, Etáwáh ...	1,500	0	0
Lála Brij Kishore, Etáwáh ...	1,000	0	0
Lála Kunj Behari, Etáwáh ...	1,000	0	0
Rája Balwant Singh of Awa ...	10,000	0	0
E. B. Alexander, Esq., C.S. ...	2,750	0	0
H. V. Lovett, Esq., C.S. ...	1,180	0	0
Bábu Damodar Das, Azamgarh ...	1,020	0	0
Lála Ratan Sen Singh, Basti ...	1,110	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. McRobert, Cawnpore...	7,000	0	0
Woollen Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore...	3,000	0	0
Elgin Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore ...	2,000	0	0
Victoria Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore ...	1,000	0	0
Muir Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore ...	5,000	0	0
Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., Cawnpore ...	1,000	0	0
Messrs. Cooper, Allen & Co. ...	5,000	0	0
Messrs. Ford and MacDonald ...	3,000	0	0
A. W. Trethewy, Esq., C.S. ...	1,000	0	0
Tho Hon'ble W. E. Cooper ...	5,000	0	0
H. G. Warburton, Esq., C.S. ...	1,444	7	1
Rai Bahádúr Mahabir Prasad Narain Singh, Allahabad ...	1,200	0	0
Rai Partab Chand Bahadur, Allahabad ...	2,000	0	0
Rai Ram Charan Das Bahádúr and his son Madho Prasad, Allahabad ...	2,500	0	0
Rája Ram Partab Singh of Manda...	1,500	0	0
J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.S....	1,000	0	0
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aikman ...	1,000	0	0
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Blennerhassett ...	1,000	0	0
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel B. O'Brien ...	1,000	0	0
Munshi Ram Prasad, Allahabad ...	1,000	0	0
Pandit Sundar Lal, Allahabad ...	1,000	0	0
Lála Ganesh Prasad, Allahabad ...	1,000	0	0
Chaudhri Mahadeo Prasad, Allahabad ...	1,000	0	0
Proprietors of the <i>Pioneer</i> Press ...	1,500	0	0
Rai Shyam Krishna, Benares ...	1,000	0	0
His Honour Sir A. P. MacDonnell ...	1,000	0	0
Rája Jang Bahadur Khan, C.I.E., of Nánpara... ..	20,000	0	0
Lála Basdeo Sahai, Meerut ...	1,000	0	0
His Highness the Nawáb of Rámpur ...	10,000	0	0
British Indian Association, Oudh ...	19,032	14	0
Naini Tal Brewery Compaury ...	1,000	0	0
Rája Tasadduk Rasul Khan of Jahangirabad ...	5,000	0	0
His Highness the Rája of Balrámpur ...	25,000	0	0
A. M. W. Shakespear, Esq., C.S. ...	1,000	0	0
Chaudhri Muhammad Azim, Hardoi ...	1,500	0	0
Ali Muhammad, son of the Rája of Mahmudabad ...	1,000	0	0
From the Husaiabad Endowment ...	15,000	0	0
From the Shah Najaf Endowment ...	5,000	0	0
G. T. Spankie, Esq. ...	2,000	0	0

				Rs.	a.	p.
The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Munshi Prag Narain Bhargava, Lucknow ...	...	...	...	1,550	0	0
The Raja of Bhinga ...	...	...	...	10,000	0	0
Lála Chunni Lal, Allahabad ...	...	...	...	2,000	0	0
Shaikh Naushad Ali Khan, Bara Banki ...	...	...	...	3,000	0	0
Nawáb Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan of Pakásu (Bulandshahr)	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Munshi Ihtisham Ali, Oudh ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Sheikh Háfiz Abdul Karim, Khan Bahadur, C. I. E. ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Kunwar Harnam Singh, Oudh ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Seth Raghubar Dayal, Oudh ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Hakím Mirza Muhammad Raza Khan, Lucknow ...	...	...	...	1,075	0	0
Munshi Madho Lal ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Sri Maháráni Beni Parshad Kunwari ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Rája of Mahmudabad, Sitapur ...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0
Rája Partab Singh Bahadur, Partabgarh ...	...	...	...	2,500	0	0

Another remarkable feature of the subscription list is that officers long retired from Government service and living in England sent subscriptions towards the local funds of the districts in which they had formerly served ; while regiments and officers, civil and military, still in service in India, also sent subscriptions to districts in which they had formerly been stationed. Another feature was the considerable sums received by private remittance from England and the Colonies by officers engaged in the distribution of relief. One remittance in particular may be mentioned. A lady came as a bride to Bareilly about two years before the Indian mutiny, and from there went for some time to Benares. From that place she was sent home shortly before her husband was killed there. She sent money for relief in Bareilly and Benares direct to the Commissioners of those places.

18. The total receipts of all the Committees of the Fund in these Provinces up to 31st October 1897, amounted to Rs. 51,46,153-11-11 ; this sum was made up as follows :—

Total receipts of the F
in these Provinces (via
Tables, Forms C and D

					Rs.	a.	p.
Appropriations from the Central Fund ...	...	...	...	...	46,65,857	10	0
Subscriptions for these Provinces received—							
(i) By the Calcutta Committee ...	...	...	...	...	2,906	2	1
(ii) By the Provincial Committee direct ...	...	...	...	...	65,295	10	10
(iii) By the North-Western Provinces Branch Committee ...	...	...	...	...	4,424	12	0
(iv) By the Oudh Branch Committee ...	...	...	...	...	40,595	13	11
(v) By District Committees ...	...	...	...	...	26,379	13	7
Subscriptions for particular districts ...	...	...	...	...	3,37,901	4	7
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	2,792	8	11

A sum of Rs. 5,000 was also received by the Provincial Committee from the Nawáb of Rámpur and remitted to the General Fund in Calcutta.

19. Upon the 31st October 1897 the sum of Rs. 3,22,433-11-0 remained as a balance in the hands of the several Committees in the Provinces. Rs. 48,23,720-0-11 had been expended. Rs. 10,168-9-6 was spent in various miscellaneous charges : establishment, postage, carriage of clothing, and so on. Rs. 48,13,551-7-5 had been expended in actual relief upon several objects as follows :—

Total expenditure of
Fund in the ...
(vide Tables, Forms
and D).

Object	I	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.	a.	p.
"	II	...	...	...	...	...	2,53,959	15	3
"	III	...	...	...	...	...	11,971	0	7
"	IV	...	...	...	...	...	9,86,366	15	5
"	IV	...	...	...	...	...	35,61,253	8	2

Details of the manner of this expenditure are given in full in the district reports ; but it may be well to give a brief summary of the forms which the expenditure under each heading took and note, as accurately as the returns allow, the extent of the relief

afforded. It may be observed as a preliminary point that it is impossible to reduce the relief figures of the Fund to a sum total of units relieved for one day. Such reduction was possible in the Government operations, which consisted of payment of money during certain fixed periods to persons relieved. But the nature of the operations of the Fund was so various that they cannot all be expressed in the same terms.

Expenditure and relief
under object I (vide
Table, Form B).

20. Of the Rs. 2,53,959-15-3 expended under object I, the sum of Rs. 1,24,925-15-11 or nearly one-half was devoted to providing clothing for people in receipt of Government relief. This sum provided clothing or blankets for 200,502 people, so that including the number (4,003) of such persons supplied with clothing out of the gifts from England and 518 others who received gifts amounting to Rs. 422-7-9 to enable them to buy clothing, 205,023 different persons on the Government relief lists were clothed from the Fund. Over one-half the expenditure in purchase of cloth, *viz.*, Rs. 63,241-5-2, was in payments to weavers; this class was one that suffered severely from the pressure of high prices and the absence of employment, and the amount they received may well be considered as spent for relieving their necessities and not merely for clothing other poorhouses. Purchases from petty dealers, who were also put to straits by the famine in many places, accounted for Rs. 22,676-7-6, and the remainder Rs. 39,008-3-3 was spent in purchases from large dealers or unclassified sources. This form of relief was common to all districts, the largest sums being spent by officers of the Public Works Department and by the Charitable Fund agency in the districts of Fatehpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Allahabad, Jhansi, Jalain, Mirzapur, Lucknow, Unao, Rae Bareilly, Sitapur, Hardoi, Fyzabad, and Sultanpur. In Oudh a far larger sum was spent on clothing for people on relief than in the North-Western Provinces, in relation to the total charges in each province.

The next most important outlay under this object was that of Rs. 67,586-14-5 in supplementing the amount of the dole granted by the Government to persons on the lists of gratuitous relief. Over four-sevenths of this was expended in the district of Banda; the rest was principally in the districts of Hamirpur, Basti, Unao, and Partabgarh. In Hamirpur the dole for children only was increased. The average number of recipients at each distribution was 34,918.

In providing "comforts" in Government poorhouses a sum of Rs. 30,362-15-9 was expended. This was mainly in Fatehpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Lucknow, Kheri, and Bara Banki. The principal charges were for the provision of additional food, of which the milk-supply was the most prominent part. Over 46,100 different people are reported to have received this relief. In maintaining poorhouses before and after the period of their maintenance by Government or municipalities, or in places where no Government poorhouse was maintained, a sum of Rs. 13,711-9-0 was spent, most of it in food-supply. Over 15,000 people are reported to have passed through the poorhouses during this time, which was not more than 144 days in any one district.

Other branches of expenditure under this head besides those * already mentioned are these—

Rs. a. p.
Purchase of
clothing ... 1,24,925 15 11
for
clothing ... 422 7 9
to supplement
Government
relief
... 67,586 14 5
for relief in
Government
poor-
houses ... 30,362 15 9
and poor-
houses ... 13,711 9 0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Supplementing Government wage on relief works	...	...	200 0 0
Meals for an average of 1,890 children and infirm persons about relief work during 108 days	...	...	4,212 6 7
Improving the diet of about 15,000 poor patients in hospital (including a sum of Rs. 2,500 expended directly by the Oudh Branch in the Lucknow hospitals),	4,017	2	0
Assistance to 2,369 wanderers, feeding them till they could reach home or work	1,123	6	3
Distribution of quinine and other febrifuges to over 50,000 persons during the severe outbreak of fever at the close of the rains of 1897	4,815	1	0
Miscellaneous expenditure on meals and food to town children, contribution to a charitable refuge, &c.	2,582	0	7

21. The sum of Rs. 11,971-0-7 spent upon the maintenance of orphans may be thus classified :—

Expenditure and relief under object II.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(i) Subsidies to orphanages	5,623	10	6
(ii) Construction of orphanages	968	3	2
(iii) Maintenance of orphans in Fund orphanages	3,490	4	0
(iv) Miscellaneous expenses during famine	786	3	5
(v) Local payments for permanent maintenance of orphans	653	5	9

The bulk of the first head of charge is found in the returns for Agra, Bareilly, Allahabad, and Lucknow city; and consists of payments to recognised orphanages to help them to meet the charges of the 1,663 additional inmates who were admitted during the famine under such conditions that the usual Government grants could not be applied for. The second head of charge consists of two items only, in Allahabad and Gorakhpur. The first was a contribution of Rs. 500 to the building fund of a newly-started Hindu orphanage; the other was the cost of constructing an orphanage.

The third, fourth, and fifth heads appear to consist mainly of payments incurred in regard to orphans collected in poorhouses: in some districts these payments have not been kept separate from the other expenditure in such places, but in others the children who were permanent residents were kept apart, and the cost of nursing and "comforting" 1,523 of them is shown here.

The last head comprises two local payments only. The amount required for the permanent endowment of the orphans now remaining will be paid by the Committee to the Government. It is reported that 560 orphans were permanently provided for before 31st October 1897, but the number not reported must have been far larger than this. As the arrangements were made by the District Officers, the District Committees were not generally in a position to make any report.

22. The bulk of the expenditure (Rs. 9,86,366-15-5) upon the third of the objects of the Fund is classified under the head "money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food." This relief was given for varying periods in the different districts—mostly from 7 to 10 or 11 months, but in one for 12 and in another for 13. It has not been easy to ascertain the actual number of different families or persons who at one time or another were upon the lists; in some districts it has been necessary to calculate an average number. Taking the best figures that can be obtained, which aggregate 98,386, it may be said that there were 100,000 regular recipients of such relief; these figures to a considerable extent appear to indicate heads of families, but the number of old men and widows and other solitary poor must also have been large. The rates generally varied from one to two rupees *per mensem* for each adult, with an inclination towards the higher limit; in some cases women received a lower dole than men, while the rates for children seldom exceeded half those for adults. Payments were made as a rule either fortnightly or monthly; only in four of the districts where any large amount was distributed were payments made at shorter intervals. The amount thus distributed was Rs. 9,19,206-12-1, or nearly 19 per cent. of the total expenditure on relief; the largest sums were given away in Agra, Cawnpore, Banda, Hamirpur, Allahabad, Jhānsi, Jalaun, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, and Lucknow, that is to say in the large cities and in the areas of acute famine.

Expenditure and relief under object III.

The expenditure on clothing the respectable poor amounts to Rs. 30,486-4-2; of this Rs. 3,122-2-0 was given in cash to 3,049 persons to enable them to buy clothes, while Rs. 27,364-2-2 was expended by District Committees in purchasing clothes for distribution. Of this sum Rs. 15,343-4-9 went to weavers, Rs. 7,633-9-11 to petty shopkeepers, and Rs. 4,387-3-6 to larger dealers. The clothes thus purchased were given to 34,885 persons. Including the 3,049 persons who received money gifts, 6,248 persons who shared in the distribution of clothes from England and other Committees, and 1,768 who received articles purchased by the Provincial Committee, the total number of respectable poor persons clothed by the Fund amounts to 45,950.

The only other large charge under this heading is an item of Rs. 16,813-3-10 for grain or cooked food doles. The district of Allahabad claims Rs. 13,379-3-2 of this sum. This amount was expended on kitchens maintained for several weeks in a number of villages at the height of the scarcity, when it was found that the children of the villages who had not gone to the relief works were being neglected by their parents.

The remaining items may be briefly noted :—

- (a) Rupees 2,556-13-9 in purchase of materials, } for cotton spinning done by persons who, though accused to such work in their own homes, were not of the labouring classes. The finished product of their labours was sold; but a considerable part of it had not been disposed of by 31st October, so that the net loss of Rs. 4,853-13-1 which the tables show is not a correct result of the operations.
- (c) Rupees 3,135-1-9 in maintaining a cheap grain shop* in the city of Sultanpur.
- (d) Rupees 10,000 contributed by the Oudh Branch Committee to the Society for the Encouragement and Preservation of Indian Art.

These sums above mentioned together make up the total expenditure of Rs. 9,86,366-15-5 upon the third object of the Fund.

23. By far the largest portion of the expenditure up to the 31st October 1897 was upon relief under heading IV. This amounted to Rs. 35,61,253-8-2 or nearly 75 per cent. of the total expenditure on relief. Nearly the whole of this sum was expended in gifts to cultivators to start them again in their occupation and prevent them sinking to the level of labourers. Four hundred and fourteen thousand and sixty-seven of this class of persons received the sum of Rs. 34,74,223-3-9 for this purpose. The number 414,067 is nearly 1 per cent. of the population of these provinces, excluding the Meerut Division, in which there was no famine. Details of this distribution are as follows :—

	Number of recipients.	Amount received.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
(1) For purchase of cattle	114,061	18,71,514	0	0
(2) Ditto seed grain	226,640	13,12,592	11	9
(3) For both cattle and seed grain	42,668	1,15,181	10	0
(4) For wages to labourers	16,275	85,606	14	0
(5) For subsistence of cultivator and family	14,460	86,014	0	0
(6) For purchase of ploughs and implements and subsistence of cattle	63	3,314	0	0

In two districts cattle and seed were purchased by the distributors at a cost of Rs. 2,594 and given to 654 persons. The details of distribution by districts will be found on pages 30 and 31; the Lucknow and Allahabad divisions and Mirzapur district received a very large part of this form of relief.

Besides this relief to the cultivating classes, Rs. 41,664-2-9 was expended in a similar manner for the relief of persons of all kinds of other occupations. Two thousand and one weavers were paid Rs. 10,144-14-9 by way of advances to purchase materials and wages for working for the District Committees. They produced nearly 18 maunds weight of *daris* and coarse cloth in Agra, 9,483 *dhotis* in Benares, and 366 pieces of cloth in Hardoi. The sale of the Agra goods was not effected before the 31st of October. The *dhotis* made in Benares were not sold—a number of them were sent, as has already been stated, to four other districts for distribution.

* The total transactions of this grain shop amounted to Rs. 17,691-2-3 on each side of the account. The establishment cost Rs. 660-13-3, while the cost of purchase of grain was Rs. 17,030-5-0. The receipts from sales were Rs. 14,556-0-6. The receipts from the Fund were, as above stated, Rs. 3,135-1-9, of which Rs. 660-13-3 went to meet the establishment charges and Rs. 2,474-4-6 went to meet the loss on the sales caused by the favourable rate allowed to the purchasers. In this latter sum is included an item of Rs. 251-10-2 on account of free doles of grain.

and the remainder were distributed after the 31st of October among the poor in Benares city. In Hardoi a sum of Rs. 549 was received from the sale of the cloth, but much remained to be sold on 31st October 1897.

In 15 other districts the assistance given to weavers, petty dealers, and artisans of all kinds was by means of simple money gifts, to provide them with materials or with tools. Six thousand three hundred and eighty-six persons received such gifts to the amount of Rs. 31,519-8-0. An idea of the classes relieved can be obtained from the entries under heading A (ii) of object IV on page 29 in Form B of the Statistical Tables.

Another form of expenditure under this heading is reported from 11 districts, in which 3,671 persons whose houses had been destroyed by fire or rain, or had fallen into ruin through their poverty, received gifts amounting to Rs. 26,671-8-0 to assist them in rebuilding them. The remaining items of expenditure under this head are Rs. 15,845-15-8 in valedictory doles to 20,587 persons on their discharge from Government relief and Rs. 196-6-0 miscellaneous charges.

24. The Provincial Committee desires to express its obligations to the District Committees and their almoners for the efficient manner in which the charitable relief operations were carried on. In particular thanks are due to the gentlemen named in the several district reports. These reports are all interesting; but the following may be specially noticed for various reasons. Those for Banda (page 94), Hamirpur (page 104), and Sultanpur (page 141) are particularly full and descriptive, and give a very good idea of the working of the Fund: that for Bijnor (page 71) gives a brief sketch of efficient organization in a district where distress was not severe; that for Gorakhpur (page 130) indicates some of the varieties and difficulties of the work. The distribution of clothing on relief works is illustrated by the report of Lieutenant C. D. Mears (page 45); the necessity of febrifuges after famine is shown in Bareilly (page 70) and Pilibhit (page 85). The treatment of orphans and of neglected children in villages is dealt with in the Allahabad report (pages 110 and 111). Typical notices of relief by gifts of money to the respectable poor are to be found in Moradabad (page 76), Fatehpur (page 93), Lucknow (page 140), and Fyzabad (pages 152 and 155). The system of offering cotton-spinning work for a wage is noticed in Hardoi (page 149). The gifts to cultivators are perhaps best described by district officers in Agra (page 52), Muttra (page 57), Etawah (page 64), Pilibhit (page 84), Jhansi (page 119), Basti (page 134), and Fyzabad (page 153); in each of these accounts there is some noticeable point. The Benares report (page 126) tells how weavers were supplied with work; the Hardoi report (page 148) explains the gifts for rebuilding houses. As to the general effect and result of the charity, paragraphs in the Agra (page 55), Shahjahanpur (page 82), Pilibhit (page 86), Jaunpur (page 128), and Basti (page 135) reports may be mentioned, besides passages in those accounts which have been otherwise referred to.

District work and reports.

25. The members of the Provincial Committee present at the final meeting—other than Mr. Hose—desire to put on record the great obligation this Committee is under to Mr. Hose and to Kunwar Parmanand, Rai Bahadur; to Mr. Hose for the ability, energy and unfailing attention to business with which he has, since this Committee was formed, performed the duties of its Honorary Secretary, compiled statistics, prepared reports and accounts and conducted its correspondence and aided the other members of the Committee with his advice; and to Kunwar Parmanand for the devotion to his duties as an Honorary Secretary with which he undertook and carried on successfully the business of the Committee during the temporary absence in part of August, September and October of Mr. Hose. The work which devolved on the Honorary Secretary was of the most onerous description, and that work was cheerfully undertaken and carried out by Mr. Hose in addition to his heavy official duties and by Kunwar Parmanand in addition to his many professional engagements. Further the Committee desires to add its opinion that without the

assistance of Mr. Hose the work of the Committee could not have been carried to a successful conclusion. This Committee also desires to acknowledge the services of Mr. Hose as Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces Branch of this Committee and of Mr. L. C. Porter as Honorary Secretary of the Oudh Branch.

JOHN EDGE,

President of the Provincial Committee,

24th January 1898.

N.-W. P. and Oudh.

N.B.—The final report of the Fund in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh is printed on pages 176—177.

STATISTICAL TABLES. ---

	PAGES.
FORM B.—Details of relief given ... ..	... 17—33
FORM C.—Abstract cash account ... ..	... 34—35
FORM D.—Statement of receipts of district committees ...	... 36
FORM E.— Ditto expenditure ditto ... ..	... 37

I. F. C. R. FUND

FORM B.

N.-W. P. AND OUDH.

Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

OBJECT I.

A.—Clothing, blankets, &c., to persons in receipt of Government relief, whether in poorhouses, kitchens or outside.												
District.	(i) Relief by gifts of clothing or blankets.									(ii) Relief by gift of money to buy clothing.		
	Number of persons who received clothing or blankets—				Expenditure incurred locally in purchasing clothing or blankets [vide (c) supra].					Number of persons who received money to enable them to buy clothing.	Amount given for this purpose.	
	(a) Sent from England.	(b) Provided by the Provincial Committee.	(c) Purchased by the District Co mittee or its almoners.	Total number of persons.	(1) Total expenditure.	(2) Value of purchases from weavers.	(3) Value of purchases from petty shop-keepers.	(4) Value of purchases from large cloth dealers.	(5) Value of purchases that can not be now classified.			
					Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	
1 Dehra Dún ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Muzaffarnagar, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Agra ...	...	...	1,332	1,332	1,229 5 4	337 8 0	891 13 4	...	...	...	...
4 Muttra ...	...	...	521	521	383 3 6	...	383 3 6	...	...	...	...
5 Farnkhabad ...	...	...	669	669	874 5 9	...	874 5 9	...	...	...	...
6 Mainpuri ...	...	...	193	193	181 14 6	...	20 8 0	152 6 6	...	...	...
7 Etāwah ...	66	100	296	462	300 0 0	...	...	...	300 0 0	...	...
8 Etah ...	869	...	372	1,241	718 5 1	306 12 10	54 8 3	(4)357 0 0	...	...	...
9 Bareilly ...	...	50	640	690	838 9 9	191 15 0	646 10 9	...	...	...	...
10 Bijaor ...	...	...	765	765	438 14 0	300 0 0	...	138 14 0	...	...	...
11 Budaun ...	...	...	137	137	102 10 3	102 10 3	...	...	...	...	...
12 Moradabad ...	...	...	623	623	357 8 6	...	357 8 6	...	...	...	...
13 Shāhjahānpur, ...	...	86	2,328	2,414	1,410 2 0	76 0 0	1,364 2 0	...	...	...	...
14 Pilibhit ...	...	...	243	243	150 0 0	100 0 0	50 0 0	...	...	...	...
15 Cawnpore ...	...	(1)250	2,356	2,606	1,569 8 0	20 5 6	281 14 9	1,258 3 9	...	...	...
16 Fatehpur ...	...	...	2,500	2,500	2,000 0 0	700 0 0	900 0 0	400 0 0	...	...	...
17 Banda ...	1,323	(1)2,443	8,673	12,439	5,631 2 3	1,633 7 3	1,800 9 6	2,580 11 9	(6)216 5 9	...	...
18 Hamirpur ...	122	1,550	18,777	20,440	8,628 12 0	(3)8,628 12 0	...	...	...	...	...
19 Allahabad ...	341	600	6,311	7,352	3,423 0 6	...	...	(5)3,423 0 6	...	...	...
20 Jhānsi ...	...	100	6,568	6,668	3,360 2 11	2,993 8 11	366 10 0	...	...	...	...
21 Jalaun ...	675	1,572	2,816	5,063	2,198 10 9	562 9 9	1,636 1 0	...	...	...	...
22 Benares ...	50	...	2,168	2,218	1,430 0 6	290 6 0	220 8 0	919 2 6	...	...	...
23 Mirzapur ...	150	607	6,022	6,779	6,472 15 0	...	...	6,472 15 0	...	...	...
24 Jaunpur ...	...	...	851	851	874 0 0	359 0 0	515 0 0	...	...	...	...
25 Ghāziपुर ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Ballia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Gorakhpur ...	336	(1) 45	2,025	2,406	1,155 10 0	1,155 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
28 Basti ...	...	...	1,629	1,629	760 12 6	463 8 0	297 4 6	...	...	...	...
29 Azamgarh ...	...	200	2,676	2,876	2,344 0 0	2,124 0 0	220 0 0	...	...	...	...
30 Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Through officers of or attached to P. W. D.	...	...	30,534	30,534	15,780 7 6	9,495 10 3	1,785 11 3	4,499 2 0	...	500	410 8 0
Total N.-W. P.	3,932	7,603	1,02,025	1,13,560	62,658 0 7	29,259 11 9	12,680 7 1	20,201 8 0	516 5 9	500	410 8 0	
31 Lucknow city...	...	...	1,573	1,573	1,258 15 9	753 0 0	231 15 9	274 0 0	...	...	...
32 Ditto district.	...	...	11,321	11,324	5,918 0 0	3,684 0 0	1,069 0 0	1,165 0 0	...	...	...
33 Unao ...	...	...	2,234	2,231	3,902 6 2	1,400 0 0	2,502 6 2	...	...	...	...
34 Rao Bareilly ...	...	...	20,217	20,217	15,247 4 5	15,247 4 5	...	...	...	...	...
35 Sitapur ...	69	...	3,360	3,429	3,627 6 10	1,915 14 6	1,681 8 4	...	...	...	...
36 Hardoi ...	2	340	12,645	12,987	8,322 9 3	6,718 8 9	299 14 3	1,304 2 3	...	...	...
37 Kheri ...	...	...	1,683	1,683	1,426 2 0	745 13 0	225 5 0	432 2 9	22 13 3	...	...
38 Fyzabad ...	...	...	4,618	4,618	2,164 13 3	360 8 9	420 5 3	1,383 15 3	...	18	11 15 9
39 Gonda ...	...	...	1,422	1,422	1,041 10 0	...	1,041 10 0	...	...	...	...
40 Sultānpur ...	...	...	3,104	3,104	2,182 11 0	1,109 5 6	1,073 5 6	...	...	...	...
41 Partābgarh ...	...	...	2,607	2,607	2,816 9 1	1,036 5 0	325 8 5	1,454 11 8	...	...	...
42 Bara Banki ...	...	...	1,750	1,750	1,714 6 7	...	594 14 6	198 9 10	920 14 3	...	...
Through officers of or attached to P. W. D.	...	...	24,000	24,000	10,228 2 9	980 13 6	530 3 3	8,717 2 0	...	...	...
Total Oudh ...	71	340	90,534	90,945	59,851 1 1	33,981 9 5	9,996 0 5	14,929 11 5	943 11 6	18	11 15 9	
GRAND TOTAL...	4,003	7,943	1,32,559	2,04,505	(2) 1,22,509 1 8	63,241 5 2	22,676 7 6	35,131 3 9	1,460 1 3	518	422 7 9	

(1) Part of the clothing still remaining undistributed.

(2) The Executive Committee spent Rs. 2,416-14-3 in purchase of the clothing distributed to persons as in column (b) from mills at Cawnpore at a cheap rate, and in freight on blankets obtained from Calcutta.

(3) The greater part of this was spent in purchasing at a fair market rate from Government cloth which had been woven by weavers in return for relief, out of thread which also had been spun in return for relief afforded by the Government.

(4) From the Jail.

(5) Includes some purchases from petty shop-keepers.

(6) Sewing and dyeing charges.

B.—Other expenditure in poorhouses or kitchens.

(c) Maintaining poorhouses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them.

Details of expenditure.

Details of relief.

District.	Amount spent in building and far- nishing poorhouses or kitchens.	Establishment charges.	Conveying paupers to poorhouses.	Rations and com- forts.	Miscellaneous, includ- ing fuel and lighting, carriage of blankets, hospital charges, funeral expenses, and other petty items.	Total expenditure.	(1) Length of time during which poor- house and kitchen was open.	(2) Total number of persons who came to the poorhouse and kitchen.	(3) Highest number in poorhouse and kitchen on any one day.	(4) Average daily number of inmates.
North-Western Provinces.										
1 Dohra Dón	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 Muzaffarnagar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 Agra	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 Mitna	655 0 5	..	..	..	..	655 0 5	(2)	..	..	..
5 Parukhabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6 Mainpuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7 Etawah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 Etch	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 Bureilly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 Bijnor	..	35 1 6	0 5 0	229 10 6	34 4 8	299 5 8	67	523	62	46
11 Budann	50 1 8	5 0 0	..	149 6 9	..	204 8 0	80	217	90	65
12 Moradabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13 Shahjahanpur	..	94 7 9	..	2,874 13 4	122 9 0	3,091 14 1	(3) 189	(4) 8,000	1,473	537
14 Pilibhit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 Cawnpore	55 0 0	..	..	..	..	55 0 0	..	..	..	..
16 Fatehpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 Banda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18 Hantreppur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 Allahabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 Jhansi	3 9 6	2 13 0	..	214 2 0	..	(1) 220 9 8	43	(4) 700	629	276
21 Jalaun	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22 Benares	11 1 6	4 9 9	427 1 6	302 5 8	8 4 8	427 1 6	31	345	311	11
23 Mirzapur	..	..	4 6 0	..	..	830 11 2	..	..	..	..
24 Jaunpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 Ghazipur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26 Ballia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27 Gorakhpur	593 12 6	260 0 3	..	2,671 7 6	194 8 11	8,719 18 2	125	(4) 2,312	790	345
28 Pesti	5 10 9	64 11 3	5 2 0	1,243 0 5	11 12 1	1,350 4 6	144	(4) 4,200	664	296
29 Azamgarh	314 2 8	54 13 6	..	1,283 15 11	19 13 8	1,672 12 10	86	900	357	156
30 Almora	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total N.-W. P.	1,688 6 2	521 8 11	436 14 6	8,968 14 5	391 4 2	12,007 0 2	144	12,197	4,376	1,782
Oudh.										
31 Lucknow city	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32 Ditto district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33 Unao	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34 Rae Bareilly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 Sitapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36 Hardoi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37 Kheri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
38 Fyzabad	23 1 6	37 11 0	..	931 7 0	..	992 8 0	139	409	271	240
39 Gonda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40 Sultanpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41 Partabgarh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
42 Bara Banki	120 5 0	92 0 4	..	500 0 0	..	712 5 4	45	2,390	488	248
Total Oudh.	148 6 6	129 11 4	..	1,431 7 0	..	1,704 8 10	189	2,808	709	483
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH	1,831 12 8	651 4 3	436 14 6	10,400 5 5	391 4 2	13,711 9 0	144	15,005	5,085	2,215

(1) Cost of a kitchen in Jhansi city.

(2) A few days only before it was taken over by Government and the Municipality. Figures of persons not available.

(3) Three poorhouses were open; two for shorter periods than this.

(4) Estimate; returns from districts give units for one day. The return for Basti gives an approximate figure only.

FORM B.—OBJECT I.—(continued).

B.—Other expenditure in poorhouses or kitchens—(concluded).

(ii) Provision of "comforts" in Government poorhouses.

Details of expenditure.

Details of relief.

District.	Cost of milk supply.	Purchase of lime juice and other comforts.	Money distributed for additional food.	Provision of extra food.	Establishment charges including canteen.	Furnishing and building poorhouse.	Miscellaneous including fuel, lighting, parcels, railway freight, burial and accessories, hospital contingencies, and sundry petty items.	Total expenditure.	(1) Length of time during which comforts were provided.	(2) Total number of persons who were provided with comforts.	(3) Average daily number supplied—		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Days.		Children.	Others.	With other comforts.
<i>North-Western Provinces.</i>													
1 Dehra Dún ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Muzaffargarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Agra ...	...	...	454 12 0	...	...	...	...	554 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
4 Mathura ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Farukhabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Mainpuri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Etawah ...	...	3 5 6	...	664 5 4	...	...	...	687 10 10	215	243	...	...	100
8 Etah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 7 9	...	...	...	...	...
9 Bareilly ...	22 14 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 14 8	90	(1)30	21	...	...
10 Bijpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Budann ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Moradabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Shahjahanpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Pilibhit ...	86 4 0	12 3 6	10 12 0	...	...	...	7 8 1	109 3 6	150	292	(1)20	10	...
15 Gwalior ...	900 0 0	200 0 0	900 0 0	46 2 0	59 8 1	...	...	2,000 0 0	225	690	1,801	...	15
16 Fatehpur ...	1,679 3 7	410 6 0	4,803 5 2	...	...	...	...	7,117 13 7	137	3,559	...	...	1,203
17 Banda ...	...	...	4,803 5 2	...	...	...	...	4,692 6 3	240	(2)7,791	...	...	1,137
18 Hamirpur ...	...	737 14 6	4,892 6 3	...	...	...	...	773 0 6	245	2,350	...	...	(3)10
19 Allahabad ...	...	...	...	3,477 4 2	...	...	...	773 0 6	245	2,350	...	...	101
20 Jhansi ...	302 12 1	15 0 0	433 3 9	...	...	17 3 0	...	3,480 8 2	214	(1)2,300	61	25	78
21 Jalaun ...	...	...	70 6 0	...	...	...	...	708 2 10	231	2,940	...	...	11
22 Benares ...	...	...	...	...	...	3 7 0	...	70 6 0	51	(1)30	...	...	...
23 Mirzapur ...	628 7 2	21 12 5	...	...	...	...	...	653 10 7	246	560	22	44	...
24 Jaunpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 G. Azipur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Bahia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Gorakhpur ...	...	...	143 12 8	...	...	26 3 3	...	186 12 1	46	(1)500	...	...	377
28 Basti ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29 Azamgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N.W.P.	3,619 9 6	1,400 9 11	11,508 9 10	4,187 11 6	69 8 1	78 5 0	281 13 0	21,146 2 10	246	21,395	1,425	79	3,012
<i>Oudh.</i>													
Lucknow city ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" district ...	...	...	4,370 15 1	...	...	...	...	4,370 15 1	229	16,394	...	...	1,104
31 Unao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32 Rae Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33 Sitapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 Hardoi ...	...	94 12 4	1,929 15 10	...	256 10 8	140 0 9	72 9 0	2,552 4 1	270	6,241	10	8	154
35 Kheri ...	58 3 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36 Fyzabad ...	...	...	...	42 8 8	...	...	...	42 8 8	3	601	...	...	...
37 Gonda ...	...	...	...	80 4 1	...	...	...	126 7 4	76	905	9	26	200
38 Sultanpur ...	46 3 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	436 10 7	163	41,100	...	...	17
39 Partabgarh ...	...	...	411 2 9	...	360 15 3	1,032 5 5	275 10 6	1,688 15 2	369	1,436	2	1	187
40 Utra Banki ...	...	...	...	...	617 9 11	1,192 6 2	372 11 4	9,216 12 11	309	24,737	21	35	1,680
Total Oudh	104 6 9	94 12 4	6,712 1 1	123 12 9	677 2 0	1,270 11 2	681 8 4	30,362 15 9	309	45,132	1,445	114	4,723
GRAND TOTAL N.W.P. AND OUDH ...	3,724 0 3	1,495 6 3	18,220 11 6	4,310 8 3	677 2 0	1,270 11 2	681 8 4	30,362 15 9	309	45,132	1,445	114	4,723

(1) Estimate. (2) These numbers represent two children in poorhouses. (3) This is the figure of the district return; but it appears to be wrong. The Government do not sufficiently provided for adults.

C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poorhouses.

District.	(i) Supplementing the famine wage on relief work.	(ii) Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief.				(iii) Providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works.				
		(a) Total amount so expended.	(b) Period during which it was expended.	(c) Total number of payments made.	(d) Average number per month or fortnight (according as the dole was monthly or fortnightly) of persons whose dole was increased.	(a) Total amount so expended.	(b) Period during which it was expended.	(c) Average number for each day.		
								A Children.	B Aged persons.	C Infirm persons.
<i>N.-W. Provinces.</i>		Rs. a. p.	Days.			Rs. a. p.	Days.			
1 Dehra Dún
2 Muzaffarnagar
3 Agra
4 Muttra
5 Farukhabad
6 Mainpuri
7 Etawah	26 4 3	36	46	...	...
8 Etah	17 2 6	14	71	47	106
9 Bareilly
10 Bijnor
11 Budaun	2 12 0	30	3	...	1
12 Moradabad
13 Sháhjahanpur
14 Pilibhit
15 Cawnporo
16 Fatehpur ...		532 2 0	154	10	213	...	...	...	...	...
17 Bāda ...		40 832 15 0	252	36	21,146	1,380 0 4	75	27	2	...
18 Hamirpur ...		7,969 3 0	240	34	(1) 2,277	...	...	...	...	...
19 Allahabad
20 Jhānsi
21 Jalaun	2,699 2 0	108	1,672	...	(2) 360
22 Benares
23 Mirzapur
24 Jaunpur
25 Ghāziपुर
26 Ballia
27 Gorakhpur
28 Basti ...		9,367 3 6	296	22	600	...	...	...	...	...
29 Azamgarh
30 Almora
Through officers of P. W. D.		30 0 0	31	(3)	...	...
Total N.-W. P. ...		58,701 8 3	296	36	24,236	4,155 5 1	108	1,819	49	467
<i>Oudh.</i>										
31 Lucknow city
32 Ditto district
33 Unao ...		0,120 0 5	182	26	5,327	...	...	...	...	...
34 Rao Bareilly
35 Sitapur
36 Hardoi ...		440 0 0	42	3	136	...	...	...	...	...
37 Kheri
38 Fyzabad
39 Gonda
40 Sultanpur ...		271 12 0	61	2	164	5 2 0	5	(4) 51	...	...
41 Partābgarh ...		2,053 9 9	185	26	5,055	51 15 6	22	120	...	...
42 Bara Banki
Through officers of P. W. D.	
Total Oudh ...		8,855 6 2	185	26	10,682	57 1 6	22	171	...	...
GRAND TOTAL N.-W.P. AND OUDH		67,556 14 5	296	36	34,918	4,212 6 7	108	1,990	49	467

- (1) Government doles for adults were considered sufficient; but doles for children not in arms and under 12 years of age were supplemented to the extent of one pice daily for each child from the Fund.
 (2) Details of B and C not available.
 (3) Details of person not given.
 (4) This number includes persons of all ages.

(concluded).

D.—Other relief under heading "Object I".

Relief to poor at hospitals, i.e., increasing food ration, &c.			Assistances to wanderers, sending them to relief works or to their own villages or giving them food.			Purchase and distribution of quinine, cinchona, and other medicines.			Miscellaneous.		
Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.
Days.	Rs. a. p.		Days.	Rs. a. p.		Days.	Rs. a. p.		Days.	Rs. a. p.	
101	230 11 3	4,336	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...	379 2 0	4,000	...	...	...
...	11 0 0	...	...	...	...
...	0 8 0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	30	95 4 8	(2)1000	...	...	...
...	600 0 0	2,000	...	...	...	60	1,630 15 10	(2)17,000	...	...	...
...	19	34 7 0	68	...	62 0 0	(2)600	...	...	...
60	52 9 9	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	221 8 0	(2)2,000	...	...	...
...	400 0 0	(2)4,000	...	...	...
...	31	740 6 0	(2)8,000	...	...	...
30	150 0 0	203	...	...	...	31	206 0 0	3,072	...	...	...
...
...
...
...	85	286 12 0	733	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	31	479 10 0	(2)6,000	...	...	...
...
...	190 9 4	(2)2,000	...	...	...
...
...
...	304	34 12 0	196	31	40 8 8	593	...	...	...
...	31	192 10 6	(2)2,000	392	(3)1,487 10 1	19,674
...
1	122	190 0 0	200	...	...	...	...	74 6 6	...
...
101	1,033 5 0	6,594	304	546 7 0	1,198	31	4,649 11 0	50,265	392	1,562 0 7	19,674
...
...	75	100 0 0	1,100	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	150	476 15 3	71	30	165 6 0	6,656	...	(5)500 0 0	...
...
...
211	483 13 0	294	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	(6)520 0 0	10,300
211	483 13 0	294	150	576 15 3	1,171	30	165 6 0	6,656	...	1,020 0 0	10,300
...
211	(1) 1,517 2 0	6,888	304	1,123 6 3	2,369	31	4,815 1 0	56,921	392	2,582 0 7	29,974

(1) The Oudh Branch disbursed Rs. 2,500 direct for this purpose. The number of persons relieved is probably about 8,000.

(2) Estimate.

(3) Meals to children of the town through Municipal Board members and others.

(4) Contingent charges.

(5) Contribution towards permanent charitable refuge.

(6) Distribution of comforts at *Dasehra* at Lucknow city among the poor.

(2)—Expenditure during the famine other than that on clothing.

District.

Nature of expenditure.

Subsidies to orphanages.

Construc-
tion of
orphanages.Maintenance of orphans in
Fund Orphanages.

Miscellaneous expenses.

Period of expendi-
ture.Amount of expen-
diture.

Number of orphans.

Amount of expen-
diture.Period of expendi-
ture.Amount of expen-
diture.

Number of orphans.

Period of expendi-
ture.Amount of expen-
diture.

Number of orphans.

Days.

Rs. a. p.

Rs. a. p.

Days.

Rs. a. p.

Days.

Rs. a. p.

North-Western Provinces.

1	Dehra Dún	...	...	...	...	...	15	54 13 0	123	...	...	...
2	Muzaffarnagar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Agra	...	185	2,046 8 0	876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Muttra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Farakhabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Mainpuri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	(3) 22 4 9	6
7	Etawah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Etah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Barcilly	...	90	733 0 0	146	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bijnor	...	...	...	...	...	43	8 0 9	1	...	...	...
11	Budaun	...	...	...	...	...	75	9 4 6	4	...	...	...
12	Moradabad	...	...	...	...	...	30	35 0 0	2	...	...	...
13	Sháhjahanpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Pilibhit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Cawnpore	...	62	132 0 0	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Fatehpur	...	60	132 7 3	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Banda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Hamirpur	...	...	...	...	...	42	95 10 9	52	...	...	...
19	Allahabad	...	195	1,300 0 0	300	500 0 0	15	75 1 0	248	...	(4) 612 14 0	...
20	Jhansi	...	...	...	...	...	245	705 5 0	174	...	...	...
21	Jalaun	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Benares	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Mirzapur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Jaunpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Ghazipur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Ballia	...	...	...	...	...	214	67 12 6	18	...	...	...
27	Gorakhpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Basti	...	387	96 13 6	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Azamgarh	...	...	...	...	...	56	50 0 0	51	...	...	...
30	Almora	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N.-W. Provinces		...	387	4,440 12 9	1,610	968 3 2	245	1,100 15 6	673	67	635 2 9	6

Oudh.

31	Lucknow city	...	365	1,105 0 0	(1) 44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	Ditto district	...	...	...	...	...	214	377 10 0	(1) 43	...	...	...
33	Unao	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	Rae Bareli	...	...	...	...	...	(2) 180	1,142 3 9	(2) 100	...	...	...
35	Sitapur	...	206	77 13 9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Hardoi	...	...	...	...	...	31	401 12 1	284	...	(5) 91 10 0	...
37	Kheri	...	...	...	...	...	184	389 2 5	64	180	(6) 59 6 8	64
38	Fyzabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Gonda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	Sultánpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Partúgarh	...	...	...	...	...	10	17 8 3	18	...	...	...
42	Bara Baná	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Oudh		...	365	1,182 13 9	53	...	214	2,328 4 6	509	180	151 0 8	64

GRAND ... -W. P. AND
OUDH.

(1) Monthly average.

(2) Estimate; the returns from the district are doubtful.

(3) Pay of nurses for orphans in dispensary.

(4) Includes Rs. 313-15-1 allowance to Poorhouse Superintendent for looking after comfort of orphans.

(5) Conveying 218 orphans to their homes.
(6) Mostly establishment charges.
(7) Already shown under "maintenance."
(8) Made over to the District Board for expenditure on orphans in the dispensary poorhouse pending final arrangement.
(9) A sum of Rs. 7,655 (including Rs. 2,500 for a building) was paid out of local subscriptions after 31st October 1897.

A.—Supply of clothing to respectable poor not in receipt of Government

(i) Relief by gifts of articles of clothing.

Number of persons who received clothing—					Expenditure in local purchase of clothing.								
District.	(a) The articles being sent from Eng- land.	(b) The articles being pro- vided by the Provin- cial Com- mittee.	(c) The cloth or articles being pur- chased under the order of the District Committee.	Total number of persons.	(1) Total expen- diture.	(2) How much of (1) was spent in pur- chasing from weavers.	(3) How much from petty shop- keepers.	(4) How much from large cloth- dealers.					
					Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
N.-W. Provinces.													
1 Dehra Dún ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Muzaffarnagar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Agra ...	150	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Muttra ...	92	...	...	92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Farukhabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Mainpuri ...	(1) 280	...	15	295	18	1	6	...	...	...	18	1	6
7 Etāwah ...	118	...	...	118	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Etah ...	...	...	277	277	150	0	0	65	0	0	85	0	0
9 Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Bijnor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Budaun ...	...	...	297	297	180	13	9	157	9	9	23	4	0
12 Moradabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Shāhjahāpur ...	370	...	...	370	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Pilibhit ...	782	...	419	1,201	300	0	0	200	0	0	100	0	0
15 Cawnpore ...	296	...	1,250	1,546	822	1	9	...	...	...	61	4	9
16 Fatehpur ...	102	...	2,000	2,102	2,000	0	0	800	0	0	800	0	0
17 Bāuda ...	248	(2)	...	248	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 Hamirpur ...	1,062	668	11,212	12,912	7,001	11	7	7,001	11	7	...	...	...
19 Allahabad ...	232	...	...	232	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 Jhāusi ...	239	(2) 1,000	2,720	3,959	1,915	0	6	1,603	8	9	341	7	9
21 Jalaun ...	...	...	918	918	595	0	0	144	13	9	450	2	3
22 Benares ...	54	...	...	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Mirzapur ...	250	...	3,481	3,731	1,959	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 Jaunpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 Ghāziपुर ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Ballia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Gorakhpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28 Basti ...	...	...	150	150	60	0	0	36	8	0	23	8	0
29 Azamgarh ...	630	...	86	716	86	0	0	...	...	...	68	0	0
30 Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N.-W. Provinces	4,905	1,668	22,828	29,401	15,118	3	7	10,009	3	10	1,991	12	3
Oudh.													
31 Lucknow city ...	918	...	...	918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32 Ditto district ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33 Unao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 Rae Bareli ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 Sitapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36 Hardoi ...	425	100	6,371	6,371	6,810	0	1	4,037	2	5	2,772	13	8
37 Kheri ...	...	...	1,172	1,997	1,280	0	0	1,034	0	0	46	0	0
38 Fyzabad ⁹ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39 Gonda ...	...	...	190	190	292	15	0	...	...	...	292	15	0
40 Sultānpur ...	...	...	807	807	530	9	0	...	...	...	530	9	0
41 Partābgarh ...	...	...	518	518	292	14	6	262	14	6	30	0	0
42 Bara Banki ...	...	...	1,297	1,297	1,300	0	0	...	...	...	230	0	0
	...	...	1,402	1,402	1,739	8	0	...	...	...	1,739	8	0
Total Oudh	1,343	100	12,057	13,500	12,245	14	7	5,334	0	11	5,641	13	8
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH.	6,248	1,768	34,885	42,901	27,364	2	2	15,343	4	9	7,633	9	11

(1) From Shanghai.

(2) Dhotis received from Benares at the end of October next.

(1) From Shanghai.

(2) Dhobis received from Benares at the end of October not yet all distributed.

District				C.—Grain or cooked food doles to respectable poor.				
				(i) Period during which this relief was given.	(ii) Number (average if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	(iii) Rates of the doles.	(iv) At what intervals given.	(v) Amount expended.
<i>North-Western Provinces.</i>				Days.				
1	Dehra Dún ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Muzaffarnagar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Agra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Muttra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Farakkhalahad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Mainpuri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Etāwah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Etah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Barcilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bijnor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Budaun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Moradabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Shāhjāhāpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Pilibhīt ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Cawupore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Fatehpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Bānda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Hamirpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Allahabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Jhānsi ...	...	...	210	3,030	12 chhataks	Daily	13,379 3 2
21	Jalaun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Benares ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Mirzapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Jaunpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Ghāziपुर ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Ballia ...	...	...	83	205	No fixed rate	Daily	238 7 11
27	Gorakhpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Basti ...	...	...	107	34	7 chhataks	4 and 14 days	219 9 3
29	Azamgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N.-W. Provinces				210	3,269	...	...	13,857 4 4
<i>Oudh.</i>								
31	Lucknow city	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	Ditto district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Unao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	Rae Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Sitapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Hardoi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Kheri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	Fyzabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Gonda ...	...	...	302	1,350	4 chhataks	Daily	2,298 14 10
40	Sultānpur ...	...	...	61	584	16 to 24 oz.	Daily	608 8 8
41	Partābgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Bara Banki...	...	...	1	195	2 seers each	Once only	48 8 0
Total Oudh				302	2,129	...	...	2,955 15 6
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH				302	5,398	...	...	16,813 3 10

—(concluded).

D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food,

(i) Period during which relief was given.	(ii) Number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	(iii) Rates of the doles.	(iv) At what interval given.	Amount expended.	E.—Cheap grain shops.
Days.				Rs. a. p.	
64	176	Rs. 2-6-3 each time ...	10th April, 2nd, 12th, 22nd and 25th May 1897.	420 10 0	One shop at Sullimpur was open for 319 days at a net cost of Rs. 3,135-1-9; the average number of customers was 1,200 per month and the privileged rate was from 2½ to 5½ per rupee cheaper than the market rate.
59	798	One anna ...	Daily ...	2,895 10 9	
335	3,813	8 as. to Rs. 2 per month ...	Fortnightly ...	47,154 13 11	
289	1,416	Rs. 1 and subsequently 12 as. to adults; 8 as. and subsequently 6 as. to children.	Ditto ...	18,325 9 0	
210	934	Rs. 1 to 2 per head ...	Monthly ...	7,519 2 3	
304	440	„ 2 per mensem for adults and Re. 1 for minors.	Fortnightly ...	4,715 1 0	
335	1,665	„ 1 to 2 per head ...	Monthly ...	20,620 0 0	
315	2,306	Adults Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-8-0, and children Re. 1 and as. 12 per head per mensem.	Weekly, fortnightly, and monthly.	16,350 15 1	
270	1,151	Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 per mensem; anna 1 per diem.	Fortnightly ...	16,224 5 6	
240	1,901	1 Re., 12 as., and 8 as. ...	In February, March and August fortnightly; in other months monthly.	19,720 14 3	
335	900	4 to 6 pies daily ...	Fortnightly ...	9,559 5 9	
335	1,623	From 2 as. to Re. 1 ...	Monthly ...	12,321 3 0	
273	3,281	5 pies to 1 pie a day ...	Weekly and fortnightly ...	25,061 4 0	
335	1,114	Nearly Rs. 2 per mensem ...	Monthly ...	14,439 0 0	
214	2,569	½ anna to 1½ anna per diem ...	Daily and weekly ...	30,121 3 4	
225	376	Adults 9 pies, children 6 pies per diem ...	Fortnightly ...	5,084 12 3	
225	5,916	Rs. 3 to 5 monthly ...	Eight times in all ...	69,205 8 9	
210	5,387	„ 1-5-4 per mensem ...	Monthly ...	50,237 2 10	
270	13,799	„ 1-1-8 ...	Ditto ...	1,37,213 6 3	
304	4,911	1 pie to 1 anna per diem ...	Weekly ...	33,583 12 6	
245	1,708	Rs. 2 to 5 ...	Monthly ...	52,997 10 6	
335	3,935	„ 1-12-0 ...	Ditto ...	18,710 8 0	
273	2,477	„ 1-14-7 per mensem ...	Fortnightly up to March and from April monthly.	42,687 12 0	
246	7,102	Adults 6 or 8 as., children 3 or 4 as. ...	Weekly ...	29,100 4 5	
247	175	Rs. 1-12-3 ...	Monthly ...	2,537 10 0	
273	6,036	Varying rates ranging from half-anna to 1 anna a day.	Fortnightly ...	16,130 9 10	
236	366	8 pies to 1 anna a day ...	10 days ...	1,031 12 8	
315	438	1 anna per head per diem ...	Weekly ...	2,127 14 11	
...	
335	75,866	...	...	7,06,087 14 9
365	14,151	Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 ...	Monthly ...	1,57,200 8 3	One shop at Sullimpur was open for 319 days at a net cost of Rs. 3,135-1-9; the average number of customers was 1,200 per month and the privileged rate was from 2½ to 5½ per rupee cheaper than the market rate.
214	883	„ 1-5-0 ...	Ditto ...	6,420 2 0	
60	716	Man 5 pie; woman 4 pie; children 1 and 2 pie.	Weekly ...	5,745 14 0	
396	1,214	1 anna a day ...	Fortnightly ...	10,021 11 1	
273	362	0-1-0 and 0-1-6 per day ...	Monthly and fortnightly ...	1,438 13 0	
180	1,027	Rs. 2 a month ...	Monthly ...	10,899 4 10	
365	286	1 anna per head per day ...	Fortnightly ...	1,590 3 3	
214	2,740	As. 8; as. 12; Rs. 1-4-0; Rs. 1-8-0; Rs. 2.	Do. and monthly ...	8,700 3 3	
289	561	Rs. 1-4-0 for mau; Re. 1 for woman; as. 12 for child.	Do. ...	5,779 7 8	
229	520	As. 8 to Rs. 2 ...	Do or monthly ...	4,098 4 0	
334	60	Rs. 2 per month ...	Fortnightly ...	1,161 6 0	
396	22,520	...	...	2,13,118 13 4
396	98,386	...	...	9,19,206 12 1

				A.—Provision of employment				
				(i) Work given out to be returned to Committee.				
District.				(a) Nature of employments assisted.	(b) Number of people supplied with money or materials.	(1) (c) Cost of materials or money advanced.	(d) Quantities of finished products returned by them.	(f) Amount received by sale of products.
North-Western Provinces.						Rs. s. p.		
1	Dehra Dún ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Muzaffarnagar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Agra ...	...	...	Weavers of daries and of coarse cloth.	627	3,192 11 3	Nearly 50 maunds weight of goods.	(3) 7 6 3
4	Muttra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Farukhabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Mainpuri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Etāwnh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Etah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Barailly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bijnor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Budaun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Moradabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Shāhjāhānpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Pilibhit ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Cawnpore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Fatehpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Bānda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Hamfrpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Allahabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Jhānsi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Jālaun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Benares ...	...	...	Weavers of dhotis.	1,333	6,776 8 0	2,453 dhotis.	...
23	Mirzapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Jaunpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Ghāzipur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Ballia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Gorakhpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Basti ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Azamgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N.-W. Provinces				...	1,000	9,969 6 3	...	700 6 3
31	Lucknow city	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	" district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Unao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	Rae Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Sitapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Hardoi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Kheri ...	...	...	Weavers ...	41	(2) 175 8 6	366 pieces of cloth.	549 0 0
38	Fyzabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Gonda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	Sultānpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Partābgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Bara Banki ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Oudh				...	41	175 8 6	...	549 0 0
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. & OUDH				...	2,001	10,144 14 9	...	1,249 6 3

(1) Includes sums paid as wages, which cannot be distinguished.

(2) They were also supplied with 18 maunds and 11 seers of thread, worth about Rs. 350, spun by persons employed by the Fund.

(3) Received or reported after 31st October 1897; more has since been realized.

IV.

to professional workmen.

(ii) Assistance in providing tools and implements or materials for work to be sold by the workers.

(a) Nature of employments assisted.	(b) Number of people supplied with materials.	(c) Cost of such materials.	(d) Number of people who received money gifts.	(e) Amount of such gifts.
		Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
...
...
...
A petty shop-keeper	1	10 0 0
...
Rs. 5 to each of 199 weavers, Rs. 1 to each of 1,162 labourers	1,361	2,157 0 0
One tailor, one blacksmith	2	25 0 0
Artizans	145	847 0 0
...
...
...
...
...
Artizans	117	805 0 0
Weavers, blacksmiths, grocers, greengrocers, curriers, calico printers and oilmen.	215	58 0 0	100	190 0 0
Weavers, greengrocers, calico-printers, oilmen, curriers, copper smiths, cotton-carders, betel-leaf sellers, braid-makers, grain parchers, cobblers and lac-sellers.	2,301	14,489 8 0
Artizans	544	3,280 0 0
Blacksmiths, carpenters, and weavers	539	3,816 0 0
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
Weavers	36	134 0 0
...
...	215	58 0 0	5,146	25,753 8 0
...
...
202 weavers and 45 petty shop-keepers	247	2,807 0 0
...
...
...
Weavers, carpenters, and confectioners	83	476 0 0
Weavers	627	1,315 0 0
...
Weavers	11	38 0 0
...
Artizans, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, shoemakers, carpenters, weavers and ekka-drivers.	272	1,130 0 0
...
...	1,240	5,766 0 0
...	215	58 0 0	6,386	31,519 8 0

District.		B.—Assistance towards rebuilding or repairing of houses.			C.—Assistance where only money grants								
		(i) Number of people assisted.	(ii) Causes of destruction of houses.	(iii) Amount expended.	Number of cultivators assisted.								
					(i) Total number.	(ii) Detail showing how many for—						Cattle and seed both.	
						Purchase of cattle alone.	Purchase of seed grain alone.	Purchase of implements.	Fodder (subsistence of cattle alone).	Subsistence of cultivator and family alone.	Wages to labourers alone.		
North-Western Provinces.				Rs. a. p.									
1	Dehra Dún	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Muzaffarnagar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Agra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Muttra	...	7	Fire	45 0 0	3,240	3,240	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Farukhabad	...	...	...	...	2,959	1,962	997	...	...	...	...	...
6	Mainpuri	...	...	...	...	2,049	1,034	990	...	35	...	...	...
7	Etāwah	...	...	...	...	628	573	55	...	...	...	...	...
8	Etah	...	6	Fire	13 0 0	0,000	1	...	...	...	...	...	6,059
9	Bareilly	...	27	Fire	171 0 0	2,822	1,567	1,247	...	...	...	...	8
10	Bijnor	...	...	...	...	2,393	1,970	410	...	...	13	...	...
11	Budaun	...	...	...	...	2,000	...	106	...	...	...	...	(3) 1,303
12	Moradabad	...	...	...	...	744	...	294	...	...	...	...	450
13	Shāhjhānpur	...	...	...	...	1,682	314	173	...	...	...	...	1,195
14	Pilibhit	...	449	Fire & want	3,473 13 0	5,280	2,215	1,387	...	...	...	...	1,678
15	Cawnpore	...	...	...	...	5,031	2,445	1,153	...	...	...	...	1,436
16	Fatehpur	...	...	...	...	2,319	1,066	209	28	...	...	...	...
17	Bānda	...	823	Fire & rain	7,977 8 0	12,000	1,000	900	...	...	116	...	(3) 10,000
18	Hamirpur	...	257	Fire	2,624 0 0	56,809	18,415	10,451	...	...	100	...	12,288
19	Allahabad	...	104	Fire	745 4 0	21,836	2,757	6,544	...	...	6,615	...	(4) 9,363
20	Jhānsi	...	...	...	...	41,052	6,766	35,693	...	...	2,176	(2) 990	...
21	Jalaun	...	317	Fire	4,082 0 0	10,289	2,942	7,347	...	...	...	1,593	...
22	Benares	...	...	...	...	34,035	8,683	14,881	...	...	5,256	...	(3) 5,215
23	Mirzapur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Jaunpur	...	...	...	...	14,213	1,131	9,750	...	...	...	...	...
25	Ghāzipur	...	...	...	...	7,900	4,342	3,206	...	...	...	...	3,332
26	Ballia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	352
27	Gorakhpur	...	...	...	...	340	...	340	...	...	...	...	...
28	Basti	...	...	...	...	26,321	135	26,186	...	...	...	...	...
29	Azamgarh	...	...	...	...	8,792	920	7,572	...	...	...	...	...
30	Almora	...	...	...	...	5,730	915	4,815	...	...	...	...	300
Total N.-W. Provinces		1,000	Fire want & rain.	19,131 8 0	279,536	65,333	143,696	28	35	14,276	14,877	...	41,291
Oudh.													
1	Lucknow city	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Ditto district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Unao	...	...	...	...	16,320	2,600	13,720	...	...	...	...	...
4	Rao Bareilly	...	...	...	...	6,564	5,737	643	...	...	...	...	...
5	Sitapur	...	42	Fire	711 0 0	24,659	4,737	17,604	...	...	(1,184)	...	...
6	Hardoi	...	...	...	...	4,073	3,391	682	...	...	...	...	920
7	Kheri	...	1,620	Fire	6,766 0 0	11,570	10,864	30,706	...	...	...	1,398	...
8	Fyzabad	...	...	...	...	2,435	1,116	1,319	...	...	...	...	...
9	Gonda	...	...	...	...	9,054	4,915	4,109	...	...	...	...	...
10	Sultānpur	...	...	...	...	2,779	1,016	1,763	...	...	...	...	...
11	Partābgarh	...	19	Fire	63 0 0	14,892	4,549	9,586	...	...	...	...	...
12	Hara Banki	...	...	...	...	7,359	6,800	659	...	...	...	...	457
13		...	...	...	...	4,826	2,973	1,853	...	...	...	...	...
Total Oudh		1,681	Fire	7,540 0 0	134,531	48,728	82,844	...	...	184	1,398	...	1,377
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH		3,671	Fire want & rain.	26,671 8 0	414,037	114,061	226,540	28	35	14,460	16,275	...	42,668
(1) They had lost everything by fire.													
(2) ...													

(1) They had lost everything by fire.

(2) For weeding.

(3) Some of these received money for ploughs also.

(4) Some of these received money for their subsistence also.

FORM B.—OBJECT IV—(concluded).

District.		D.—Assistance to cultivators by grants in kind—						(1) F.—Other expenditure under the "Object IV"—		
		(i) Cattle.			(ii) Seed.			Nature of expenditure.		
		(1) Number of cattle purchased.	(2) Price of cattle purchased.	(3) Number of cultivators assisted by grants of cattle.	(i) Quantity of seed purchased.	(ii) Price of seed purchased.	(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed.	Valedictory doles.		Miscellaneous
								Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount of expenditure.
North-Western Provinces.			Rs.			Rs.		Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
1	Dahra Dūn ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Muzaffargarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Agra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Muttra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Farukhabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Mathura ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Etāwah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43 7 3	65	...
8	Etah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64 8 0	174	...
9	Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bijnor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Budion ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Moradabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Shābjāhanpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Pilibhit ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Cawnpore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 15 0	08	...
16	Fatehpur ...	150	1,500	150	200 Mds.	1,000	500	...	...	...
17	Bānda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Hamirpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,218 3 8	7,731	(2) 42 0 0
19	Allahabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(3) 154 6 0
20	Jhānsi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	724 8 0	1,732	...
21	Jalaun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,054 6 3	3,988	...
22	Benares ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Mirzapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Jaunpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Ghāzipur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Ballia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Gorakhpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Basti ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Azamgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Almora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total N. W. Provinces ...		150	1,500	150	200 Mds.	1,000	500	12,729 0 2	13,761	196 6 0
Oudh.										
31	Lucknow city ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	Do. district ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Unao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	299 13 0	598	...
34	Rao Bareilly ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Sitapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Hardoi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	346 0 0	173	...
37	Kheri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,097 5 6	2,559	...
38	Fyzabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,311 13 3	3,393	...
39	Gonda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	Saitānpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Partibgarh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 15 9	53	...
42	Bara Bakki ...	8	94	4	...	...	...	50 0 0	50	...
Total Oudh ...		8	94	4	...	...	...	3,116 15 6	6,826	...
GRAND TOTAL N-W. P. AND OUDH.		158	1,594	154	200 Mds.	1,000	500	15,845 15 8	20,587	196 6 0

(1) No expenditure under head E, "Loans"

(2) Paid to survivors of a ferry accident, who had lost all they possessed.

(3) Charges for remittance of "object IV" money to distributing centres.

FORM B.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

Districts				Office and contingent expenditure.	Printing.	Miscellaneous.	Total expenditure.
Rs. a. p.				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>North-Western Provinces.</i>							
1	Dehra Dún	...	...	1 8 9	1 8 0	(1) 200 0 0	203 0 9
2	Muzaffarnagar	...	...	3 0 0	...	...	3 0 0
3	Agra	...	...	206 3 3	125 3 0	...	331 6 3
4	Muttra	...	...	1 5 0	...	...	1 5 0
5	Farukhabad	...	...	1 15 6	...	...	1 15 6
6	Mainpuri	...	...	17 0 0	...	...	17 0 0
7	Etāwah	...	...	86 8 6	...	...	86 8 6
8	Etah	...	...	82 1 6	...	...	82 1 6
9	Barcilly	...	...	336 5 5	...	...	336 5 5
10	Bijnor	...	...	0 8 6	...	...	0 8 6
11	Badaun	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Moradabad	...	...	6 10 6	7 4 9	...	13 15 3
13	Shāhjahānpur	...	...	111 2 2	...	...	111 2 2
14	Pilibhit	...	...	67 11 2	...	...	67 11 2
15	Cawnpore	...	...	82 0 8	40 8 0	...	122 8 8
16	Fatehpur	...	...	...	...	(2) 121 3 3	121 3 3
17	Bānda	...	...	832 9 9	7 8 0	...	830 1 9
18	Hamirpur	...	...	108 2 9	26 2 0	...	134 4 9
19	Allahabad	...	...	964 8 4	300 8 9	...	1,265 1 1
20	Jhānsi	...	...	621 8 0	50 14 8	...	672 6 8
21	Jalau	...	...	4 2 0	...	...	4 2 0
22	Benares	...	...	422 12 5	112 8 0	...	535 4 5
23	Mirzapur,	...	...	215 12 9	79 8 0	...	295 4 9
24	Jaunpur	...	...	324 1 6	8 3 0	...	332 4 6
25	Ghāzipur	...	...	5 10 0	...	...	5 10 0
26	Ballia	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Gorakhpur	...	...	273 11 4	25 0 0	...	298 11 4
28	Basti	...	...	71 5 2	71 6 6	...	142 11 8
29	Azamgarh	...	...	91 7 4	...	...	91 7 4
30	Almora	...	...	0 12 0	...	...	0 12 0
Total N.-W. Provinces				4,993 8 3	856 2 8	321 3 3	6,170 14 2
<i>Oudh.</i>							
31	Lucknow city	...	...	12 15 0	12 11 6	...	25 10 6
32	" district	...	...	49 4 3	193 2 9	...	242 7 0
33	Unao	...	...	3 13 0	...	...	3 13 0
34	Rae Baroli	...	...	1 7 3	...	...	1 7 3
35	Sitapur	...	...	213 15 9	...	...	213 15 9
36	Hardoi	...	...	41 1 6	80 0 0	...	121 1 6
37	Kheri	...	...	120 10 3	...	...	120 10 3
38	Fyzabad	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Gonda	...	...	95 8 10	...	...	95 8 10
40	Sultānpur	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Partābgarh	...	...	184 2 11	...	...	184 2 11
42	Bara Banki	...	...	117 14 5	...	...	117 14 5
Total Oudh				840 13 2	285 14 3	...	1,126 11 5
GRAND TOTAL N.-W. P. AND OUDH				5,834 5 5	1,142 0 11	321 3 3	7,297 9 7

(1) Contribution to Leper Asylum.

(2) Carriage of American grain to distributing centres.

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897.

Receipts.	Amount.		Expenditure.	Amount.	
	Rs.	a. p.		Rs.	a. p.
1. Opening balance.			1. Under object I	...	...
2. Remittances from Central Committee	...	...	2. Ditto II	...	...
(a) From General Fund	...	...	3. Ditto III	...	...
(b) "Ear-marked" for the Province	...	...	4. Ditto IV	...	...
3. Local subscriptions for the Province—			5. Miscellaneous	...	...
(a) Collected directly by, or (Executive Committee	...	...	(a) Provincial Committee (full details of this expenditure are	...	...
remitted to, the Provin- North-Western Provinces Branch	...	...	given on the next page)	...	...
cial Committee.	...	...	(b) District Committee (vide column 3 of Form E)	...	...
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use...	...	...	6. Closing balances—	...	...
(c) Collected by District Committees and remitted or to be	...	...	(a) With Provincial { Executive Committee	...	...
remitted direct to other districts of the same province	...	...	Committee. { North-Western Provinces Branch	...	...
4. Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—			Oudh Branch	...	...
(a) Provincial Committee	...	...	(b) With District Committees (vide Form E)	...	...
(b) District Committees	...	...		...	...
	2,792	8 11		1,952	14 0
Total	...	...	Total	...	...
	51,40,153	11 11		51,40,153	11 11
Receipts not intended for the Province.					
Remittances of receipts not intended for the Province.					
Subscriptions realized for India generally	...	...	Remittance by Provincial Committee to Central Committee	...	...

GRAND TOTAL	...	...	GRAND TOTAL	...	...
	51,51,153	11 11		51,51,153	11 11

* Rs. 835 received by Central Committee on 21st August 1897 and intended specially for these Provinces was never remitted to this Committee.

† From the Nawab of Rampur.

Details of Provincial Committee's Miscellaneous Expenditure.

Item.	Nature of expenditure.	Amount.
		Rs. a p.
1	Bank charges of Executive Committee	13 2 0
2	Payments to newspapers for advertisements of subscriptions	445 2 0
3	Office charges of Executive Committee, postage, stationery, telegrams, &c.	453 2 8
4	Salaries of clerks of Executive Committee	941 1 3
5	Bank charges of North-Western Provinces Branch Committee	8 3 0
6	Bank charges of Oudh Branch Committee	5 4 0
7	Salaries of clerks of Oudh Branch Committee	545 2 6
8	Office charges of Oudh Branch Committee, viz., postage, stationery, telegrams, &c.	316 15 6
9	Printing charges of Oudh Branch Committee	142 15 0
	Total	2,870 15 11

FORM E.
INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.
PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.
Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to 31st October 1897.

Serial number.	Names of districts.	Payments.										Remittances of receipts not intended for the district.		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		Under object I.	Under object II.	Under object III.	Under object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total expenditure.	Closing balance.	Total.	To Provincial Committee for the province.	Balance not yet remitted, if any.			
1	Debra Dún	230 11 3	...	420 10 0	...	203 0 9	851 6 0	...	854 6 0	3,000 0 0	1,952 14 0			
2	Muzaffarnagar	...	54 13 0	2,895 10 9	...	3 0 0	2,933 7 9	...	2,933 7 9	240 1 5	...			
3	Agra	1,783 15 4	2,046 8 0	47,154 13 11	67,987 14 3	331 6 3	1,19,304 9 9	...	1,19,304 9 9	...	...	
4	Mittra	1,043 3 11	...	18,325 9 0	60,000 0 0	4 5 0	79,373 1 11	...	79,373 1 11	...	...	
5	Farrukhabad	1,253 7 9	...	7,519 2 3	24,914 13 9	1 15 6	33,639 7 3	880 3 0	34,519 10 3	...	...	
6	Mainpuri	192 14 6	...	4,733 2 6	11,000 0 0	17 0 0	15,913 1 0	...	15,913 1 0	...	...	
7	Etawah	991 7 1	22 4 9	20,620 0 0	45,858 7 3	86 8 0	67,531 11 7	2,591 7 2	70,176 2 9	...	...	
8	Etah	862 4 0	250 0 0	16,300 15 1	21,061 8 0	82 1 6	38,759 12 7	128 6 2	38,888 2 9	...	...	
9	Bareilly	3,069 9 7	733 0 0	16,324 5 6	35,000 0 0	336 5 5	53,363 4 6	...	53,363 4 6	...	...	
10	Bijnor	857 8 11	8 0 9	19,781 14 3	40,267 0 0	0 8 6	60,015 0 5	242 9 7	61,157 10 0	...	...	
11	Kanun	362 8 0	9 4 6	9,775 11 9	9,000 0 0	...	19,147 8 3	...	19,147 8 3	...	...	
12	Moradabad	579 0 6	35 0 0	12,321 3 0	33,125 0 0	13 15 3	46,074 2 9	939 11 3	47,013 14 0	...	...	
13	Shahjahanpur	4,932 0 1	...	25,051 4 0	67,200 0 0	111 2 2	97,301 6 3	...	97,301 6 3	...	...	
14	Pilibhit	897 14 1	...	11,739 0 0	70,653 12 0	67 11 2	86,358 3 3	497 11 9	86,556 1 0	...	...	
15	Cawnpore...	2,089 11 6	132 0 0	30,913 5 1	50,386 15 0	122 8 8	83,074 8 9	32,170 6 4	1,13,344 14 7	...	...	
16	Fatehpur...	4,532 2 0	132 7 3	9,084 12 3	1,22,748 0 0	121 3 3	1,36,618 8 9	1,021 15 3	1,37,640 8 0	...	...	
17	Bandá	54,961 15 11	...	69,205 8 9	5,08,924 8 0	890 1 9	6,33,982 2 5	49,593 13 7	6,83,576 0 0	...	...	
18	Hamiapur	21,290 5 3	95 10 9	57,238 14 5	2,37,996 3 8	134 4 9	3,16,755 6 10	6,857 6 6	3,23,612 13 4	...	...	
19	Allahabad	4,196 1 0	2,437 15 0	1,50,592 9 5	3,33,482 14 0	1,265 1 1	4,92,027 8 6	24,051 14 3	5,16,079 6 9	...	...	
20	Jhansi	7,358 0 4	705 5 0	35,528 13 0	1,20,389 8 0	672 6 8	1,61,954 1 0	...	1,61,954 1 0	...	...	
21	Jalaun	6,345 9 7	...	53,582 10 6	2,51,721 6 3	4 2 0	3,41,653 12 4	1,516 3 8	3,43,200 0 0	...	...	
22	Benares	1,936 8 0	...	18,710 8 0	6,776 8 0	535 4 5	27,958 12 5	3,412 2 8	31,370 15 1	...	...	
23	Mirzapur...	6,803 10 2	404 5 9	44,617 2 6	1,14,063 6 0	295 4 9	1,66,153 13 2	2,335 2 5	1,68,488 15 7	...	...	
24	Jaunpur	1,718 3 11	...	29,100 4 5	66,906 0 0	332 4 6	98,056 12 10	2,338 9 2	1,00,395 6 0	...	...	
25	Ghazipur	...	...	2,537 10 0	...	5 10 0	2,543 4 0	86 12 0	2,630 0 0	2,062 1 9	...	
26	Balla	...	67 12 6	258 7 11	1,137 11 6	...	1,163 15 11	239 8 10	1,703 8 9	...	...	
27	Gorakhpur	4,875 7 2	498 5 2	16,130 9 10	84,105 0 0	298 11 4	1,05,908 1 6	8,780 14 5	1,14,688 15 11	...	...	
28	Basti	11,720 5 3	96 13 6	1,311 5 11	40,000 0 0	142 11 8	53,271 4 4	832 15 0	54,101 3 4	200 0 0	...			
29	Azangarh	5,697 1 5	50 0 0	2,213 14 11	51,994 0 0	91 7 4	60,016 7 8	4,602 8 4	64,709 0 0	1,814 10 6	...			
30	Almura	...	...	...	...	0 12 0	...	...	...	1,814 10 6	...	
	Bulandshahr non-working committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,098 6 0	...	
	Naini Tal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,338 15 11	...	
	Meerut	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,736 4 0	...	
	North-Western Provinces Officers of Public Works Department.	16,485 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total North-Western Provinces	1,07,070 0 6	7,829 9 11	7,37,159 14 11	25,06,646 7 8	6,170 14 2	34,24,876 15 2	1,43,163 5 4	35,65,010 4 6	19,480 7 7	1,952 14 0			
31	Lucknow city	1,258 15 9	1,105 0 0	1,57,200 8 3	...	25 10 6	1,59,590 2 6	0 6 3	1,59,590 8 9	...	...	
32	Ditto district	10,288 15 1	377 10 0	6,420 2 0	1,07,901 8 0	242 7 0	1,25,230 10 1	782 8 11	1,26,013 3 0	...	...	
33	Unao	10,122 6 7	...	5,715 14 0	1,11,569 13 0	3 13 0	1,27,441 14 7	4,997 6 1	1,32,439 4 8	615 0 0	...			
34	Rae Bareilly	15,247 4 5	1,112 3 9	10,021 11 1	1,79,200 0 0	1 7 3	2,05,612 10 6	500 9 3	2,06,113 3 9	...	...	
35	Sitapur	4,127 6 10	77 13 9	8,308 13 1	76,651 8 0	213 15 9	89,332 9 5	1,896 14 10	91,279 8 3	...	...	
36	Hardoi	9,404 14 6	493 6 1	18,808 6 2	3,18,622 8 6	121 1 6	3,47,450 4 9	39,371 4 9	3,86,821 9 6	...	...	
37	Kheri	4,970 9 7	524 7 1	1,690 3 1	24,273 2 9	120 10 3	31,478 0 11	4,404 12 7	35,942 13 6	...	...	
38	Fyzabad	2,176 13 0	...	9,064 2 3	49,546 14 0	...	60,787 13 3	1,691 11 3	62,482 8 6	...	...	
39	Gonda	1,089 4 8	...	8,608 15 6	22,922 13 3	95 8 10	32,716 10 3	1,331 9 6	34,018 3 9	...	...	
40	Sultanpur	2,632 13 10	...	8,134 12 11	62,000 0 0	...	72,767 10 9	...	72,767 10 9	...	...	
41	Partalgarh	5,789 10 5	17 8 3	2,094 6 0	51,511 15 9	181 2 11	59,597 11 4	1,329 12 8	60,927 8 0	...	...	
42	Bareilly (non working committee)	4,115 11 1	403 5 9	3,209 2 0	60,401 13 3	117 14 5	58,250 14 6	4,396 10 9	59,347 9 3	5,100 0 0	...			
	Bahraich (non working committee)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231 8 0	...	
	Oudh Officers of Public Works Department.	10,748 2 9	...	...	...	...	10,748 2 9	6,332 6 0	17,080 8 9	...	...	
	Total Oudh	81,973 0 6	4,141 6 8	2,39,207 0 6	10,54,607 0 6	1,126 11 5	13,81,055 3 7	63,799 0 10	14,44,854 4 5	5,946 8 0	...			

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.—The Resolutions passed and the names of the members of the Committees appointed at the first public meeting (pages 40-43).

APPENDIX B.—Circular Letter No. 111, dated 3rd April 1897 (page 43).

APPENDIX C.—Circular Letter No. 176, dated 28th April 1897, directing economy (page 43).

APPENDIX D.—Reports of officers of or attached to the Public Works Department regarding the distribution of clothing to people on relief works (pages 44-50).

APPENDIX E.—District Committees' Reports (pages 50-170).

APPENDIX F.—Auditor's Final Report on his examination of District Accounts (pages 170-172).

APPENDIX A.

Copy of Resolutions of Public Meeting at Lucknow on 25th January 1897.

1. That His Honour Sir Antony MacDonnell, K.C.S.I., be asked to take the chair.

Proposed by Mahārāja Sir Partap Narain Singh, K.C.I.E., of Ajodhya.

Seconded by Amir-ud-Daula Saiyid-ul-Mulk Mumtaz Jang, Rāja Sir Muhammad Amir Hassan Khān Bahādur, K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad.

2. That a General Committee for the United Provinces be formed to co-operate with that formed in Calcutta, with the object of supplementing the measures adopted by Government for the relief of distress in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Proposed by Rana Sir Shankar Baksh Singh, K.C.I.E., of Khajurgaon.

Seconded by Chaudhri Muhammad Azim of Kakraili.

3. That the following gentlemen* be appointed members of the General Committee.

Proposed by Rāja Tasadduk Rasul Khan of Jahangirabad.

Seconded by Rāja Bahadur Surpal Singh of Telohi.

4. That an Executive Committee consisting of the following gentlemen† be formed with the object of giving effect to the second Resolution.

Proposed by J. Deas, Esq., C. S., Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.

Seconded by Rāja Jagmohan Singh, C.I.E., of Atra Chandapur.

5. That the thanks of the meeting are due to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner for occupying the chair.

Proposed by Mahārāja Sir Partap Narain Singh, K.C.I.E., of Ajodhya.

Seconded by Rāja Kasim Husain Khan.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

1. Sir John Edge, Chief Justice, (*President*).
2. Honorable Mr. Justice Aikman.
3. Honorable Mr. Justice Banerji.
4. The Commissioner of the Allahabad Division.
5. Brigadier-General Waterfield (and during his absence Brigadier-General Money).
6. Honorable Mr. W. E. Cooper.
7. The Collector of the Allahabad District.
8. Mr. J. W. Hose, C.S.
9. Mr. F. E. Elliot.
10. Honorable K. Aditya Narain Singh of Benares.
11. The Rāja of Mandā.
12. Rai Mahabir Parshad Narain Singh Bahādur.
13. Rai Bahādur Ram Charan Das.
14. K. Parmanand Chaube.
15. Saiyid Amjad Ali Shams-ul-Ulama.
(afterwards added) Honorable Mr. Justice Burkitt.

OUDH.

1. Mr. J. Deas, C.S., Judicial Commissioner.
2. Major-General Corrie Bird (and after his departure Major-General Jennings).
3. The Commissioner of the Lucknow Division.
4. The Deputy Commissioner, Lucknow District.
5. Mr. L. C. Porter, C.S.
6. Mr. DeGruyther, Barrister-at-Law.

* List appended.

† List appended.

7. The Mahārāja of Ajodhya.
8. The Rāja of Mahmudabad.
9. Rāna Sir Shankar Baksh Singh.
10. Rāja Tasadluk Rasul Khan.
11. Rāja Rampal Singh of Kure Sidhouli.
12. Chaudhri Muhammad Azim.
13. Honorable Bābu Sri Ram.
14. Chaudhri Nasrat Ali.
15. M. Prag Narain Bhargava.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Sir John Edge, Kt., Chief Justice, High Court, Allahabad, *President*.

Lieutenant-General Sir Baker Russell, K. C. B.

Honorable Mr. A. Cadell, C.S.I.

Honorable Mr. Justice Aikman.

Honorable Mr. Justice Binerji.

Right Reverend A. Clifford, Bishop of Lucknow.

Major-General Corrie Bird.

Very Reverend Father Damascus, Archbishop of Agra.

Honorable J. J. D. LaTouche, C.S.I.

Honorable W. E. Cooper, C.I.E.

T. Conlan, Esq., Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad University.

Mr. J. Deas, Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.

Mr. G. T. Spankie, Additional Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.

The Commissioner, Allahabad Division.

The Commissioner, Lucknow Division.

Brigadier-General Waterfield.

Mr. J. J. Holdsworth.

Mr. J. Mackinnon.

His Highness the Nawáb of Rámpur.

His Highness the Mahārāja of Benares.

Rai Bahádur Lāla Nihal Chand.

1. Nawáb of Kurnal.

2. Lāla Nihal Chand, Rai Bahadur.

Hafiz Shaikh Abdul Karim, Khán Bahádur, C.I.E.

1. Nawáb Mumtaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan of Pahasu.

2. Rai Nathumal Bahádur.

1. Maulvi Sir Saiyid Ahmad, Khán Bahádur, K.C.S.I.

2. Kunwar Muhammad Luft Ali Khan, Khán Bahádur.

3. Haji Muhammad Ismail Khan.

Seth Lachman Das, C.I.E.

1. Mahārāja Mahendra Mahendra Singh Bahádur, C.I.E., of Bhadawar.

2. Rai Sheo Narain, Bahadur.

3. Mr. E. John.

Rāja Udit Narayan Singh of Tirwa.

1. Rāja Ram Pratap Singh of Mainpuri.

2. Rāja Narotam Singh of Eka.

1. Rāja Prabal Pratap Singh of Malhajani.

2. Haji Hafiz Muhammad Ruhulla Khan.

1. Rāja Balwant Singh of Awa.

2. Rāja Khushal Singh of Rajori.

3. Chaudhri Nur-ullah Khan of Sahawar.

Pandit Het Ram, C.I.E.

Rāja Shiam Singh of Tajpur.

1. Rāja Hari Raj Singh of Kashipnr.

2. Rāja Jai Kishen Das, Bahádur, C.S.I.

Sahárampur.

Muzaffarnagar.

Meerut.

Bulandshahr.

Aligarh.

Mottra.

Agra.

Farukhabad.

Mainpuri.

Etāwāh.

Etah.

Bareilly.

Bijnor.

Moradabad.

Sháhjahánpur.	Rája Fateh Singh of Pawayan.
Pilibhit.	Lála Jagannath, Rai Bahadur.
Fatehpur.	Rája Narpát Singh of Asothar.
Allahabad.	1. Rája Lal Ram Pratab Singh of Mandá.
	2. Rája Banspat Singh of Barah.
	3. Rai Mahabir Prasad Narayan Singh, Bahádur of Baraon.
	4. Rai Ram Charau Das Bahadur.
	5. Kuar Permanand.
	6. Munshi Ram Prasad.
Jalaun.	Rája Rup Sah of Jagamanpur.
Benares.	1. The Hon'ble Kunwar Aditya Narayan Singh.
	2. Bábu Pramoda Das Mitter.
	3. Munshi Madho Lal.
	4. Mirza Muhammad Rahmat-ulla Beg, Khán Bahádur.
Jannpur.	Saiyid Muhammad Mohsin, Khán Bahádur, Zulkadr.
Gházípur.	Bábu Gobind Narain Singh.
Gorakhpur.	1. Rája Satrajit Pratab Bahádur Sahi of Tanukhi.
	2. Saiyid Wajid Ali Shah.
Basti.	1. Rája Lal Narendra Bahádur Pal of Mahason.
	2. Lal Ratan Sen Singh of Bansi.
Azamgarh.	1. Rája Muhammad Salamat Khan of Azamgarh.
	2. Bábu Damodar Das of Azmatgarh.
Lucknow.	1. Prince Mirza Sulaiman Kadr.
	2. Kunwar Farnam Singh Ahluwalia, C.I.E.
	3. Mirza Muhammad Abbas, Khán Bahádur.
	4. Rája Indra Bikram Singh of Itaunda.
	5. Lála Bishambhar Nath.
Unao.	1. Mahant Har Charan Das of Maswasi.
	2. Lála Kedar Nath of Maurawan.
Rae Bareil.	1. Rája Bahádur Surpal Singh of Tilohi.
	2. Rána Sir Shaugar Bakhsh Singh, K.C.I.E. of Khajurgaon.
	3. Rája Rampal Singh of Kurre-Sidhau.
	4. Rája Jagmohan Singh, C.I.E., of Atra Chaudapur.
Sitapur.	1. Amir-ud-daula Saiyid-ul-Mulk Mumtaz Jang, Rája Sir Muhammad Amir Hasan Khan, Khán Bahádur, K.C.I.E. of Mahmudabad.
	2. Mirza Muhammad Ali Beg of Aurangabad.
	3. Honorable Seth Raghubar Dayal.
Hardoi.	1. Chaudhri Muhammad Azim of Kakrauli.
	2. Thákur Maháraj Singh of Atwa Nasirpur.
	3. Chaudhri Nasrat Ali, Khán Bahádur.
	4. Kunwar Durga Parshad of Sarwan.
Kheri.	1. Thákur Balbhaddar Singh of Mahewa.
	2. Mr. L. Hearsey, Manager for the Ráni of Khairagarh.
Fyzabad.	1. Mahárája Sir Pratab Narayan Singh, K.C.I.E. of Ajudhia.
	2. Saiyid Abu Jafar.
	3. Mir Muhammad Askari of Pirpur.
	4. Babu Gokul Chand.
	5. Honorable Babu Sri Ram, Rai Bahádur.
Gonda.	1. Rája Muzaffar Ali Khan of Utraula.
	2. Lal Raghuraj Singh, of Mankapur.
	3. Mr. T. Innes, Manager, Balrámpur Estate.
Bahraich.	1. Rája Udai Pratab Singh, Bahádur, C.S.I. of Bhinga.
	2. Rája Jang Bahadur Khan, C.I.E. of Nanpara.
	3. Rája Bhupendra Bikram Singh, of Piagpur, C.I.E.
	4. Mr. Wood, Manager, Kapurthala Estate.
Saltánpur.	Rája Bhagwan Bakhsh Singh of Amethi.

1. Rája Pratab Bahádur Singh of Tiraul.
2. The Hon'ble Rája Rámpal Singh of Kalakankar.
3. Captain Chapman.
1. Rája Tasadduq Rasul Khan of Jahangirabad.
2. Rae Narayan Balli.
3. Mir Buniad Husain of Bhanman.
4. Shaikh Inayat-ullah of Saidanpur.
5. Shaikh Naushad Ali Khan of Maila.

Partágarh.

Bara Banki.

APPENDIX B.

I am directed to inform your committee that the North-Western Provinces Branch Committee has received applications from certain Missionary and other religious bodies for assistance from the Famine Relief Fund for the support of orphans in institutions managed by such bodies. The Branch Committee obviously has not information before it to enable it to decide whether assistance should be given from the Famine Fund in the particular cases. It has hitherto referred such applicants to the local committees of the districts. The District Committees, having local knowledge, are in a position to judge whether such assistance should be given from the Fund and they should in each case decide on the merits of each application. As the subscribers to the Fund are members of various religious denominations it is obvious that it could not have been their intention that any portion of it should be devoted to the maintenance of any particular denominational institution. It may, however, happen that such institutions may have under their charge, with the sanction of the district authorities, orphans for whom no other provision could be made and for the feeding and clothing of whom the institution without assistance is unable to provide. The Committee thinks that such cases should be taken into consideration by the District Committees which can in their discretion make contributions to such institutions in their districts whilst at the same time taking care that any contributions from the Famine Fund are devoted strictly to the object of preserving the life of the orphans and not to the support of religious institutions as such.

Circular letter no. 111,
dated 3rd April 1897.

APPENDIX C.

I am directed by the President of the Committee to ask you to communicate to the Local Committee of your district the following remarks, which are in accordance with suggestions made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the guidance of all Local Committees.

Circular letter no. 176,
dated 28th April 1897.

2. The Executive Committee has until recently been making allotments to districts, intimating generally that it intended the sums remitted to be used for the purposes of distributing food and clothing to distressed persons, that is to say, for the administration of relief under the first three objects of the Fund as detailed in the enclosure of my letter No. 9, dated the 5th of February 1897. It may be expedient to remind Local Committees that it is not intended that the operations of the Fund should extend so far as to relieve the Government of the expenditure which had been undertaken by it for the maintenance of life. It was designed that the funds of the Committee should be devoted to providing small additions to the Government relief, where necessary, and to affording assistance to respectable poor who were suffering privations. It was therefore not to be understood that the receipt of an allotment from the Committee should be immediately followed by a reduction in the amount of legitimate Government expenditure in the districts.

3. It is important to bear this in mind as economy in disbursement is essential. The Executive Committee, in giving a general indication of the objects to which it intended its allotments to be applied, did not desire to fetter the discretion of the District Committees in the actual disbursement of the funds. District Committees

are at liberty to husband their resources and to divert money to the most useful purpose irrespective of the objects indicated at the time when the allotment is made. Any money, which is not absolutely required for expenditure on objects 1 to 3 at the present season, should be saved and either transferred for expenditure on object 4 or retained in hand to provide relief which may not improbably be required between the ploughing season and the autumn harvest.

APPENDIX D.

Reports on distribution of clothing by Public Works Department Officers and Military Officers attached to the Public Works Department, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

A SUM of Rs. 1,000 was made over to the District Engineer, Agra, by the Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Provincial Works, to be expended in providing clothing to the needy workers on the several works in the Agra district. The amount was expended in purchasing four kinds of clothing only:—(1) *Dhotis* for male adults. (2) *Dhotis* for female adults. (3) *Garha* cloth for adults. (4) *Dhotis* for male and female children. The cloth purchased was as follows:—

- (a) 190 pieces of *garha* cloth, about 11 yards each, all hand-made, each about Re. 1-2-6.
- (b) 240 pairs *dhotis*, about 10 yards long each pair, all hand-made, each at about annas 14.
- (c) 166 pairs *dhotis*, about nine yards each pair, all machine-made, about Re. 1-2-6.
- (d) 86 pairs *dhotis*, about 8 yards each, about annas 15 each.
- (e) 322 pairs *dhotis* for children, $6\frac{1}{2}$ yards long each, all machine-made, at about annas 9 each.
- (f) 181 pairs of sheeting for women, each 6 yards long, all machine-made, at about Re. 1-1-0 each.

1,185 total pieces purchased.

All the above pieces were purchased at Agra through petty retail shop-keepers at prices noted against each description of clothing. The clothes marked (a) and (f) were distributed to female adults, as also about 40 pairs of those marked (b). The rest of those marked (b) and those marked (c) and (d) were distributed among male workers; those marked (c) were all distributed among children of both sexes. The recipients were all selected either by the District Engineer himself or by the officer in charge. In the latter case a list was always made out and submitted to the District Engineer. The selection was chiefly made out of those workers coming from distances, or from among those who were found in a very wretched state though their homes were near the work. Clothing was distributed on every one of the works (*viz.*, 11 works and 14 charges), and the distribution was not confined to any single work or any selected locality. The numbers thus relieved were:—

Men.	Women.	Children of both sexes.	Total.
703	710	624	2,037

A statement of expenditure is herewith submitted. Vouchers were submitted to the Superintending Engineer in April 1897, with the statement of numbers relieved.
(Sd.) SOHAN LAL.

III Circle.—Report from the Superintending Engineer, Allahabad.

The operations were confined to relief works under Public Works Departmental control in the Garakhpur and Benares Divisions. Most of the cloth was purchased direct from local weavers; it was ordinary country cloth, such as the poorer classes usually wear. In the Mirzapur district about 670 *kurtas* and *dhotis* were purchased from the Mission at Mirzapur. These were made up by *pardah nashin* women from cloth woven by poor women. The clothing was invariably distributed by the officers

I Circle.—Report from the Executive Engineer, Agra district.

themselves. Occasionally some delay occurred owing to the weavers not having sufficient cloth ready, and it was considered better to wait till they had weaved more cloth than to purchase it from the regular cloth merchants. The distributing officers found it far from a pleasant task giving out the cloth, as women mobbed them to get it, and frequently divested themselves of most of their garments to show how they needed it. The operations extended over a period of six months from March to August, and the distribution was made at irregular intervals.

J. HEINIG

1. All the *chaddars* and *dhotis* distributed by me were purchased in Allahabad city, no weavers being able to supply me in my section. I bought two lots however of coloured *chaddars* from a weaver of the name of Ramzan, living near the 8th Bengal Cavalry Lines, Allahabad.

2. My method of distribution was as follows :—On going round the tanks I used to pick out those poor men or women whose clothes were in the worst rags, have their names written down as I went along, and then that evening or the next day they would be brought to my camp by a special mate along with this list. *Chaddars* and *dhotis* would be distributed by me, whilst the small children they brought with would be given Swiss Milk, Mellin's Food and biscuits. Before they left, their rags were burnt by my sweeper to ensure, if possible, their new clothes being by them and not sold.

3. The only time I ever took *chaddars* to a tank there was a tremendous uproar. I was surrounded and practically driven from the place by a crowd of semi-nude men. Most of the women on the spot had divested themselves of nearly all their clothing, hiding the same under baskets or bushes. Two women followed me at a hard trot for 1½ miles along the *kachcha* road begging for a *chaddar*—needless to say they got it in the end.

4. Latterly I became so well known as a distributor of *chaddars*, that on my appearance on a tank the women would throw any old rag round them to hide more decent clothing that they might be wearing.

5. My camp too was always surrounded by applicants from neighbouring villages. I had some pink *chaddars* that were much appreciated; the applicants quarrelling amongst themselves for the possession of such a prize.

C. D. MEARS.

THE Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, through Mr. C. G. Palmer, my Superintending Engineer of Famine Relief Works, forwarded Rs. 1,000 to me. I was told that the money was mainly to be expended on clothing and in any other way I might think necessary. The cloth was bought locally from men going to the bazars at Karaon-Kheri, and the purchases were simply ready-money undertakings. I then went to the various works and distributed the *chaddars* and cloth, seeing that the old clothes were burnt. This I also did at the head hospital at Karaon, and the children in the hospital were especially looked after. When going on inspection duty I saw many going to relief works, who in my opinion were fit objects for charity, as the Brahmins especially would sell all that they possessed, and then, after having lived on the proceeds, would go on the relief works in a very weak condition. To these I always gave something in order that they might buy food and not have to wait for the "general distribution to new-comers" which took place at stated hours. When in camp, children in various stages of emaciation would come and stay the whole day near at hand, and although ordered and often conducted to the works would return. For these I always had some boiled rice and *chapattis* and my head servant was ordered to feed them, which he generally did in my presence.

Special Circle for
Famine Relief Works
under C. G. Palmer, Esq.,
Superintending Engineer
ALLAHABAD
DISTRICT.

Report from Lt. C. D.
Mears, 8th B. C., Sectional Officer, Jasra.

Report by Lt. R. S.
Morris, Sectional Officer
Meja Road.

The *khichri* system, which I hear was afterwards adopted on the relief works, was not then in vogue, as I was invalided into Allahabad on the 3rd April last. The whole system of this charitable relief was very much (in the months of February and March) in the hands of the section officers, and I thought that in seeing to the needs of the many cases of want by an actual distribution of money would relieve many from the exhaustion necessary in waiting for the free distribution of grain which was ordered by Government, but which the naib tahsildars carried out in their own time, unless some one in authority was on the spot to see the orders of Government enforced. This of course was well nigh impossible, as I had a large district in my charge, and could only be at the centres where new-comers were taken on (the open charges) now and again.

There was little of actual accounts kept by me, as my time was fully occupied in going round the works, as *either* the inspection of the works *or* the clerical work in my own tent had to be decided, and I considered it more for the public good to do the inspection and did as little clerical work as possible.

R. L. MORRIS.

Report, dated 3rd September 1897, by Lt. W. H. Bunbury, R.E., Sectional Officer, Moja Road.

Amount.—Cheque for Rs. 700 received from C. G. Palmer, Esquire, together with 49* stained *chaddars*. The latter are not included in these accounts; they were distributed at Karaon on May 25th.

Distribution.—About Rs. 100 worth of clothes were distributed in May. I preferred however to wait till after the rains broke, when it could be found who were the really poor.

Cloth.—The cloth distributed was purchased from wholesale cloth merchants at Allahabad. The money would have been more charitably expended had I given the contract to petty weavers, but I had no time to give to the matter.

Details of distribution.—(a) All the cloth was distributed before me, with the exception of that given out on August, 31st and September 2nd 1897 at Basehra, which was done under the supervision of Munshi Muhammad Hadi, Visiting Inspector.

(b) The number of people shown as receiving clothes are as were actually counted, with the exception of the distribution at Karaon on May 23rd and the numbers shown for that are very fairly approximate—if anything rather under than over the truth, as the hospital contained about 250 inmates, and all received clothes.

(c) The lengths of cloth in each *thán* were marked as follows:—

1	<i>thán garha</i>	@ Rs. 2	14 0	contained	22	yards.
1	"	@ "	3 0 0	"	24½	"
1	" <i>markin</i>	@ "	4 6 0	"	from 37½	to 38 yards.

Women and girls were given *markin* throughout, except the last two distributions, when all this quality cloth had been expended. A woman's *chaddar* was 5 yards approximate, sometimes 7 and sometimes 8 *chaddars* being cut from a *markin thán* containing 38 yards. Thus a woman's *chaddar* cost 10 annas at the outside. A girl's *chaddar* was 4 yards *markin* approximate, thus costing 8 annas.

A man's <i>dhoti</i>	was 4 yards, thus costing	...	... 8 annas.
A grade I boy's <i>dhoti</i>	was 3½ yards, thus costing	...	... 7 "
" II child's <i>dhoti</i>	was 2½ " " "	...	... 5 "
" III " "	was 1½ " " "	...	... 3 "
" IV " "	was 1 yard or any scrap, thus costing	2	"

* These were dyed in the manner done in the Fatehpur district, and were part of a distribution made on another subscription.
8-9-97.

(d) The number of *tháns* purchased was as follows:—

No. of Rs. 2-14-0 <i>garha tháns</i> containing 22 yards each=57, total yards	...	1,254
„ of Rs. 3-0-0 „ „ „ 24½ „ „ = 41, „	...	1,004
„ of Rs. 4 6-0 <i>markin</i> „ „ 38 „ „ = 86, „	...	3,268
Total number of yards	...	5,526

Number of people clothed—

	Yards.
259 men @ 4 yards each	1,036
535 women @ 5 yards each	2,675
96 girls @ 4 yards each	396
155 Grade I children @ 3½ yards each	543
167 „ II „ @ 2½ „ „	417
117 „ III „ @ 1½ „ „	175
16 „ IV „ @ 1 „ „	16
Total	5,258

The apparent loss of 268 yards, amounting to just five per cent. of the total amount, is due to the following facts:—(a) *Markin tháns* were not quite up to 38 yards. (b) Womens' *chaddars* were often, especially at the beginning, 5½ yards long. (c) Scraps of cloth were given to children in arms, not being always counted. (d) Girls who should only have got 4 yards often got 5 yards, a small woman's *dhoti*.

The whole distribution was completed on the evening of September 2nd, 1897.

W. H. BUNBURY.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Amount received	1,000	0	0
„ expended by the 21st August 1897	955	9	0
* Balance in hand	44	7	0

BANDA DISTRICT.
Report, dated 21st
August 1897, by Captain
A. D. C. Pond, 5th Bengal
Light Infantry Sectional
Officer, Badausa.

1. The cloth distributed consisted of ordinary *markin* and *garha* and *mota dootia*. The *markin* was found to be too expensive and therefore after a few purchases *garha* and *mota dootia* was invariably purchased. The cloth was obtained from the weavers in villages of the Badausa tahsil, who were in a very distressed condition. It is a strong, roughly woven, native cloth, and is worn by all the poorer classes. The cloths averaged about 4½ yards, which is about the size generally in use in this part of the country. Some were larger than others, but it is impossible to give exact lengths. I have taken the average, and in distributing always saw that a big woman or girl got a sufficient length.

2. Altogether 1,513 cloths were distributed. Of these 250 were cut into lengths to provide clothing for the bigger girls. That makes about 1,263 women and 500 girls who received charitable relief. I gave none to men, as they can work and so clothe themselves. Thus it will be seen some 1,763 poor women and girls received clothing. I take it that men never were intended to be clothed by the Relief Fund. At least that was what I understood.

3. The method adopted for a fair distribution was to ride over the works, and when one saw a bad case, to give a ticket, numbered and initialled with directions to present it at a certain hour at the godown in exchange for a cloth. This invariably was carried out under my personal supervision. The tickets were taken as vouchers and destroyed on issue of a cloth so that they should not be again used. Many simple frauds were attempted, such as picking up any stray piece of paper and presenting it at the godown. All of course were detected at once. Women again would often tear their tickets in half and give one-half to a less fortunate sister, in the hope

* Afterwards expended by the District Surveyor.

that she too might get a cloth. This is one of the many incidents on, but space forbids me. The people were most grateful and many were the blessings called down on the generous donors of the cloth.

A. D. C. POND.

Report, dated 24th August 1897, by R. M. Thompson, Esq., Sub-Engineer, District Surveyor, Banda.

THE first lot of *dhotis* were of *gazi* cloth, purchased from local weavers (*koris* and *julahas*), but after a while it was found that the supply from this source was very limited, so much so that from the 26th March to the 30th April 1897 only 832 *dhotis* had been purchased at a cost of Rs. 588-7-9, leaving a sum of Rs. 1,411-8-3 unexpended still in hand. On this account it was decided, with the concurrence of Mr. Palmer, to purchase a coarse description of longcloth in addition to the country *gazi* cloth. This was done, and the work of purchasing and distributing progressed more satisfactorily. The total sum of Rs. 2,000 was spent by 31st May 1897.

2. The *dhotis* were made up in pieces measuring about 8 to 9 cubits long and one yard wide. This was considered a very suitable size, being a little in excess of what women of the poorer classes purchase for themselves.

3. The cloth was dyed with *Multani matti*, which produces a salmon colour fading off after a little wear.

4. A total number of 2,799 *dhotis* were made up with the cloth purchased. These were given to the poorest men and women on the several Famine Relief Works in the Banda district. A few *dhotis* were cut in two and given to children who were obviously in need of a new covering. A certain number was reserved for the sick in hospitals.

5. The distribution was effected through Famine Relief Works officials, *viz.*, Visiting Inspectors and Naib Tahsildars, who willingly undertook the duty and carried out the work very satisfactorily. The gifts were very thankfully received by the people; the only difficulty was to select those who were most in need of a new cloth, because after a while the old men and women went about wearing next to nothing, with the object of attracting the attention of the distributing officers. However with care and a little secrecy this difficulty was got over. The persons selected were quietly told to attend the naib's camp, where they were given new *dhotis* and their rags taken and burnt.

R. M. THOMPSON.

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT.
Report by A. Cuerden, Esq., District Surveyor, Hamirpur.

ONE thousand rupees were received, and out of this sum 1,442 *chaddars* and 217 coats were purchased, and distributed.

2. Only country-made cloth was purchased from the local weavers, and the coats were made up by local tailors, who were all thereby assisted.

3. The cloth was purchased in *thans* or pieces, and these were divided up into suitable lengths for *chaddars* and out of the remnants which were too short or too narrow for making into *chaddars* 217 childrens' coats were made.

4. The clothing was equally divided and sent to all the Famine Relief Works in the district, and was there distributed to the people by the first European officer who visited the work after the arrival of the clothes.

5. The clothing was given chiefly to women and to children who were in most need of it, and by whom it was much appreciated.

A. CUERDEN.

During my stay at Hamirpur I learnt that Mrs. Cuerden devoted a great deal of time to supervising the making of the childrens' coats and their distribution.
(Sd.) C. G. PALMER.

JHANSI DISTRICT.
Report by R. C. Battie, Esq., Executive Engineer, Jhansi.

ALTOGETHER 806 *thans* of *garha* cloth were purchased from a contractor in Jhansi at a cost of Rs. 1,000 and sent out into the district to the sectional officers for the Mau-Tikamgarh road, Dhawaker tank, Gursrai-Sardujan road, and the Gursrai-Moth road, Jhansi district.

2. Eight hundred and thirty-four persons who were badly off for covering were thus reclothed. Their old tattered and dirty *chaddars* were taken away and burnt before they left the works.

R. C. BATTIE.

THE whole of the purchases were made from small local dealers or from associated hand-weavers, and practically the whole of the money gave employment to village hand-weavers, who have suffered from want of employment for some time past.

2. The sum of Rs. 1,000 distributed in Jalaun district gave assistance in clothing to 1,794 persons, as well as employment to village hand-weavers. The women received *chaddars* which almost completely clothed them, and the men and boys received *dhotis* sufficiently large for decency and some comfort. All distribution was done by Pandit Kulanand, Rai Bahádur, himself, or by some officer connected with the Public Works Department relief works. Men and women who had been seen on the works for some days in very tattered clothing (often mere rags) were selected by the distributing officer and given a ticket, which entitled them to receive a *chaddar* or *dhoti*, as the case might be, from the stock placed in the godown of that work. Big girls, many of whom were almost naked, got the same clothing as women.

3. The cloth was of a very coarse quality, which is only worn by the poorest among the people, and is not easily saleable to any others. So far as can be learned, it has all been taken into regular wear by the recipients. In every case the change of clothing was made on the spot, and the old clothes collected and burnt on the spot.

C. G. PALMER.

Account of Lála Khushwakt Rai, Vice-Chairman, Municipal Board, Fatehpur district, to the 15th of August 1897. Received from C. G. Palmer, Esq., for purchase of clothing—Rs. 994-12-0.

JALAUN DISTRICT.
Report of distribution
made by Pandit Kulanand,
Rai Bahádur, District Sur-
veyor, Jalaun.

FATEHPUR
DISTRICT.
Report of the distribu-
tion made by Lála Khush-
wakt Rai, Vice-Chair-
man, Municipal Board,
Fatehpur.

Expenditure.

Number.	Kinds of clothing.	Rate.			Amount.	
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a. p.
804	<i>Dhotis</i> , average rate ...	0	9	6	474	10 0
656	<i>Chaddars</i> , ditto ...	0	12	9½	520	2 0
	Total				994	12 0

Distribution.

Kinds of clothing.	Distributed to—		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
Mens' <i>dhotis</i> (90 of them being remade up into 135 smaller ones)	849	...	...
Womens' <i>chaddars</i> of 5½ yards each	...	656	...

All the *chaddars* and *dhotis* were purchased from local hand-weavers, and the money laid out in this way gave employment to distressed hand-weavers in addition to clothing 849 men and 656 women. Altogether 1,505 persons were assisted with clothing for this sum of Rs. 994-12-0.

2. All *chaddars* and *dhotis* were dyed yellow, in the hope that being thus marked as charity clothing they would not be readily saleable. The dye however is not a permanent one, and will have washed or faded out by the time the cloth has become unmistakably "used," when it will no longer be saleable. So far as can be learned the clothing has all been used by the recipients and not sold.

3. Some octroi dues were chargeable on the clothing distributed at a relief work in Fatehpur town, and these were paid by Lála Khushwakt Rai from his own funds.

4. In the distribution of *chaddars* at Bhitaura a scramble took place among the women there, and they seized upon 56 sheets which had not been intended for that work. In consideration of the women who snatched the sheets being very ragged and fit objects of charity, Lála Khushwakt Rai allowed them to retain their plunder,

and took no action in the matter, but replaced the *chaddars* snatched away by others purchased at his own expense.

C. G. PALMER.

**CAWNPORE
DISTRICT.**

Report, dated 29th August 1897, by Mr. J. E. Murphy, District Engineer, Cawnpore.

I HAD received Rs. 1,000 from Mr. Palmer, Additional Superintending Engineer, Famine Relief Works, in five cheques of Rs. 200 each, with his letter dated 21st March 1897; for the purpose of purchasing locally-made *chaddars*, and distributing the same to women on the relief works that were in rags. After the harvest, people did not crowd to the relief works, so I returned Rs. 800; and out of the Rs. 200 in hand I purchased Rs. 109-8-0 worth of *chaddars* which were distributed to 220 women only.

On the 25th March I made the first distribution myself at Chakery on the Ahir-wan-Narainpur road. I had all the gangs squatted, about 3,000 people in all, men on one side, women and children the other. The *chaddars* I carried in my trap, and a sweeper was in attendance to receive the old clothing. The first woman I saw in rags was rather a youngish one. I ordered a Brahmin peon to throw a new *chaddar* over her, and asked her to shake off her rags. The men looked daggers, the women knives; but when a few old dames were as generously treated, the blessings of all poured out on our generous Majesty the Queen-Empress, and it was amusing to see how some old creatures that did not get a *chaddar* vanished from say gang No. 2 to gang No. 16, in hopes of doing me; but it was no go. The officials told me that if I went there next day mostly all the women would appear in rags, and I was given to believe they did.

After this I sent a bundle of *chaddars* to Captain Stuart, but he did not distribute them. I sent this bundle to Mr. Phillips, Visiting Inspector, and he distributed the contents to the women at Sarh. Later on I sent the balance of what I had to Muhammad Ishaq, Officer-in-charge at Sarh, and he distributed them in company with Mr. Hurst, Work Agent, and I am confident the clothing was distributed honestly.

I must add that I had none of the *chaddars* dyed. I wanted the women to see that they were really getting good stuff.

J. E. MURPHY.

APPENDIX E.

District Reports.

1.—DEHRA DUN.

Chairman's letter no. 265, dated 5th November 1897. Receipt no. 954.

THE only area in which there has been distress is the southern khatts of pargana Jaunsar-Báwar, above Kalsi, and in the Jumna and Tons valleys.

This area is made up of a collection of steep mountains rising from 2,000 to 7,000 feet above the sea and traversed only by village footpaths, impracticable even for mules. The chief crops grown are rice, *tor*, *mandua*, wheat, barley, ginger, amaranthus, *urd*, *gagti*, and turmeric.

The people are clustered in self-supporting village communities of small proprietors and their dependants. They support themselves chiefly by the sale of sheep, turmeric, chillies, ginger, and other hill produce.

A meeting of the residents of the Dún was called on the 2nd April and the following were chosen as the District Committee:—

1. Mr. F. Giles, C.S., *Chairman*.

Dehra Dún Sub-committee.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 2. Lala Ajit Pershad. | 9. Khan Najaf Ali Khan. |
| 3. „ Baldeo Singh. | 10. Mr. J. W. Oliver. |
| 4. Colonel Gore, R.E. | 11. Mahant Prayag Das. |
| 5. Lala Jagumander Das. | 12. Raja Ranbir Singh. |
| 6. Babu Jyotis Swarup. | 13. Chaudhri Shib Ram. |
| 7. Rev. W. Morrison. | 14. Mr. H. D. Vansittart. |
| 8. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. Murphy. | |

Mussoorie Sub-committee.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 15. Mr. C. Fitch. | 18. Rev. H. C. Spring. |
| 16. „ V. Mackinnon. | 19. „ A. Stokes. |
| 17. „ W. J. Smith. | 20. Pandit Anand Narain. |

Chakrata Sub-committee.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 21. Captain G. B. Crawley. | 23. Lala Kewal Ram. |
| 22. Mr. E. A. Moir. | |
| 24. Mr. T. A. H. Way, C.S., <i>Secretary</i> . | |

The following statement shows the crops obtained in the pargana during the three years preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 :—

Statement showing the outturn of crops.

District.	Tahsil.	Crops.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Dehra Dún	Chakrata	<i>Kharif crops.</i>				
		Rice ...	18	15	16	12
		Indian corn ...	15	15	16	12
		Cotton ...	10	10	12	8
		Urd and mung ...	15	14	8	8
		Mandua ...	15	15	12	10
		Kangni ...	18	15	6	8
		Cholar ...	20	3	6	8
		Haldi ...	18	15	12	12
		Ginger ...	18	15	12	12
		<i>Rabi crops.</i>				
		Wheat ...	15	15	12	6 to 8
		Barley ...	12	11	10	6 to 8
		Masur ...	15	9	14	6 to 8

The *kharif* crops of 1896 were affected by scanty rainfall in the southern khatts where in some villages they almost entirely failed. The crops in upper khatts were good.

The *rabi* harvest of 1897 was a good one.

Expenditure has been chiefly under object III. Rupees 420-10-0 were distributed by the Assistant Superintendent of Jaunsar, chiefly in cash and sometimes in grain, while on tour in the interior of the pargana.

Rupees 232-11-3 were spent by the Civil Surgeon of Dehra in doles of food distributed at the dispensary to distressed persons—from 27th March to 15th July.

Rupees 200 were voted to the Dehra Leper Asylum, the financial condition of which had suffered from the rise of prices due to the famine.

There is a balance of *Rs. 1,952-14-0 in hand after remitting Rs. 3,000 to your committee.

The fund has been administered, and this report written by Mr. Way, the Honorary Secretary of the Local Committee, who has given up much of the scanty leisure his official duties afford him.

F. GILES, C.S.

Between the 1st and 15th of March 1897, 123 orphans were maintained at a cost of Rs. 54-13-0. Between the 16th February and 15th of April 1897, 798 respectable poor persons received one anna each per day for the purchase of food at a cost of Rs. 2,895-10-9. There was no distress to speak of in this district. The relief was given from local subscriptions.

2—MUZAFFAR-
NAGAR.

* This also has since been received by the Provincial Committee.

3.—AGRA.
 Supplement to Collec-
 tor no. 5022, dated
 September 1897.
 Sept no. 753.

WHEN the general distribution of the money granted by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to needy cultivators of the Agra district took place in May and June last, it was found that many persons entered on the lists of those to be relieved had left their homes and had not yet returned. The methods and results of this general distribution were reported demi-officially to the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Committee on the 16th June last. But I postponed making my official report until time had been allowed for the absent agriculturists to come back and receive their money. A good many have already done so. As the rains began here about seven weeks ago, and as it is now too late to plough for the autumn harvest, the return of further emigrants seems at present unlikely. The official report need therefore be no longer delayed.

2. By a resolution dated 21st May 1897, the Agra Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund requested me, in my double capacity as its Chairman and as Collector of the district, to make arrangements for the distribution of the money. The lists of those to be relieved were prepared by circle relief officers, revised by Tahsildárs and Assistant Collectors, and forwarded to me for examination. Before the general distribution to the cultivators of any sub-district (tahsil) I myself wrote special directions to the gentleman who was to distribute in that sub-district. Copies of the directions were in every case sent, before distribution, to the Provincial committee. The gist of the instructions was as follows: The persons to be relieved, together with the head-men and accountants of their villages, who were to identify them, were to be summoned to meet the distributor at the headquarters of their sub-districts on fixed dates to receive payment. In most sub-districts one date was sufficient; but in Báh and Khairagarh, where the numbers to be relieved were large, two or more dates were fixed. The amount which the list for each sub-district showed would be required there was to be sent to the Tahsildár or chief officer of that sub-district to be kept at his treasury apart from the public money until the distributor arrived. When the amount was too large for distribution in one day it was to be sent in more than one instalment, the latter instalments being timed to reach Tahsildárs just after the instalments immediately preceding had been spent. Each cultivator on the list was to receive Rs. 20, a sum which at that time was sufficient to buy a fair second-rate pair of bullocks. For the rains had not yet fallen and produced a supply of green fodder; and cattle-owners were ready to sell their second-rate animals cheap, so as to avoid the difficulty and cost of maintaining them. Receipts in a prescribed printed form were to be taken from the recipients by the distributor and countersigned by him. Distributors were asked to be very careful to make recipients understand that, although given for the purchase of bullocks and other requisites of agriculture—a purpose for which Government yearly makes recoverable advances—the money now distributed was not a recoverable advance. The cultivators must thoroughly realize that it was a free gift, whereof no part was to be surrendered to landlord, accountant, police man or tahsili official. After receiving their money, cultivators were to be despatched from the place of distribution in parties four or five strong. The tahsildár, who was directed to be present at the time of distribution, was to see that, so long as they remained visible, no subordinate official asked them for vails.

3. The distributors, all of whom were educated at the University of Cambridge, were—in the Báh, Fatehabad, and Keraoli sub-districts Mr. J. R. Pearson, Joint-Magistrate; in the Itmadpur and Firozabad sub-districts the Reverend J. M. Challis, M.A., Professor at St. John's College, Agra; and in the Agra and Khairagarh sub-districts Mr. E. E. P. Rose, Assistant Magistrate. Money intended for cultivators, who were absent from the distribution, was returned to Agra; and tahsildárs were directed to send these absent cultivators, when they returned home, to Agra to receive payment. Such later payments were always made by one of the stipendiary Magistrates at Agra, receipts in the form already mentioned being taken from the payees. The number of cultivators who did not present themselves at the general distributions was large in the Khairagarh and Báh sub-districts, but small elsewhere. In

one sub-district, Firozabad, all those summoned were present either in person or by duly qualified and identified substitutes. Khairagarh and Bâh are our two most distressed tracts; and the total number of listed recipients being greater there than elsewhere, it was natural that the number absent from the general distribution should be greater. Both of them moreover are border territories, many of whose inhabitants had gone to seek employment in adjoining native states where population is not so dense and the competition for employment not so keen.

4. Out of the Rs. 90,000 originally allotted to this district by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Rs. 20,000 were afterwards transferred to the Banda district. This transfer left Rs. 70,000 to be spent in Agra; and Rs. 64,780 have so far been distributed to 3,239 cultivators. The details for the different sub-districts are as follows:—

Sub-district.	Population.	Rupees spent.	Cultivators relieved.
Khairagarh	123,893	24,980	1,249
Bâh	125,815	15,700	785
Fatehabad	108,116	9,260	463
Itmadpur	153,761	5,120	256
Kernoli	106,977	3,520	176
Agra	272,718	3,200	160
Firozabad	112,153	3,000	150
Total	1,003,796	64,780	3,239

The unspent balance of Rs. 5,220 can be devoted to other purposes; for, as already noted, it is no longer needed for the purposes of the autumn cultivation.

5. The distributors report that the recipients of this charity were on the whole grateful, although the prevailing desire seems to have been not to waste time in thanks givings, but to hasten away with the money before creditors or others could claim a share of it. The gratitude was most marked in the Itmadpur-Firozabad sub-districts, where distress had been slightest, and where the distribution of the money was therefore perhaps regarded more as favour and less as a duty of the givers. Two impudent cultivators of Khairagarh and Bâh said that they wanted Rs. 250 and Rs. 1,000 respectively, and refused to take the Rs. 20 offered. The Khairagarh man tardily repented of his refusal, and appeared in my court a few days ago to ask for his Rs. 20. As the autumn sowings are over, and as he was well-clothed and well-nourished, I declined to give him anything. A curious rumour was prevalent in Bâh to the effect that several peasants had abstained from coming forward to receive the money allotted to them, because they believed it to be the legacy of a lady who had died of plague at Bombay.

6. In most places, so far as can be ascertained, the beneficiaries succeeded in following the advice of the distributors and in keeping the money to themselves. In Bâh a non-resident landlord was found to be making such of his tenants as had received the gift pay a part of it to him on account of arrears of rent. Mr. Pearson had requested landholders to abstain from doing this; but we have no legal power to prevent ill-conditioned owners from doing so. In the same sub-district the enemies of a village accountant accused him of taking Rs. 4 from each recipient of Rs. 20 in his circle. Mr. Pearson's inquiries went to show, however, that the accusation was false. In Khairagarh an accountant is charged with cheating the relief circle officer into entering on the list people who already owned bullocks; and a *kanungo* is said to have persuaded the recipients in certain villages that the money was an advance repayable, of course through himself, in five yearly instalments. Both these accusations are still under inquiry by Mr. Imdad Ali, Magistrate of the 1st class.

H. C. CONYBEARE, C. S.

* Recalled and received by the Provincial Committee.

Honorary Secretary's
Letter no. 192, dated 13th
December 1897.
Receipt no. 1233.

THE total area of the Agra district is 1,856 square miles. Distress prevailed more or less throughout the district. But it was felt more acutely in two of its parganas, namely Kheragarh situate west and south, and Bâh situate south-east of the town of Agra. These two parganas are conterminous with the native state of Bhartpur on one side, and with the native states of Gwalior and Dholpur on the other. The area of Kheragarh is 309 square miles and of Bâh 342 square miles with a population of 123,393 and 125,848 respectively. These two parganas are not so fertile as the others, and they are more open to incursion from the native states on the border. The Bâh pargana consists chiefly of broken-up country and defiles running down to the Chambal; the crops chiefly sown are the autumn crops, *bâjra* and *juâr*.

2. The area of the spring crops of 1896 was restricted. There is little land irrigable from wells and the crops are perforce sown on unirrigated land owing to the very great distance of water from the surface of the ground. The winter rains were insufficient, and high west winds prevailed.

3. The *kharif* harvest of 1895 had proved to be—Indian-corn 7 annas, *kangni* 4 annas, *juâr* 8 annas, and *bâjra* 9 annas. These grains form the staple food of the poorer classes. The *rabi* harvest of 1896 was reported to be—wheat and barley 4 annas, gram 11 annas, *masur* 7 annas, and *arhar* 10 annas.

4. The necessity for some local effort to meet the prevailing scarcity and help the impoverished and indigent was recognised in time and the first public meeting to consider what steps ought to be taken to face the position was held in the Municipal Hall on the 16th October 1896, under the presidency of Mr. E. Rose, C.S., Commissioner of Agra; a District Committee was formed consisting of the more influential native gentry of the district. The Collector of the district, Mr. H. C. Conybeare, C.S., was elected Chairman and Mr. E. John, of the firm of Messrs. A. John & Co., Agra, Honorary Secretary of the Committee. The pargana committees already formed under the orders of the Collector were declared to be Branch Committees to the District Committee and subordinate to the latter. A sum of Rs. 4,986 was subscribed on the spot, most of which was afterwards collected; another meeting was held on the 28th of the same month, Mr. H. C. Conybeare, C.S., Collector, being in the chair, at which among other matters discussed a further sum of Rs. 2,070 was subscribed. On the 25th February 1897 the Agra Committee was affiliated to the Central Committee, Allahabad. The local Committee held 17 sittings altogether from the date of its formation to the end of November 1897.

5. It was decided that a dole be given in cash to all the *pardû nashin* women and respectable poor of the city. The agency employed for the distribution of the dole consisted of the ward members of the Municipal Board and other gentlemen acquainted with the circumstances of the residents in their own neighbourhood. The members of the local Christian missionary bodies were also invited to assist. The dole in no case exceeded Re. 1 a fortnight or Rs. 2 a month, for every adult male or female. Funds for this purpose were disbursed every fortnight by the Honorary Secretary and the almoners sent in nominal lists every fortnight of the amounts disbursed by them.

6. Relief was given at their own homes to all needy people of the better classes, who through physical or mental infirmity or the custom of seclusion were unable to leave their homes to work; but gratuitous relief was not given to any whose near relations were in a position to support them.

7. Relief was given in various forms. Besides money paid at their homes to the classes above described, occasional donations were also given to the different orphanages already established in the town, and to the poorhouse opened by the Municipal Board for the accommodation and support of paupers of all classes. Money was also distributed to cultivators to help them to buy cattle for the coming *kharif* ploughings, and lastly money was paid through the agency of the local Baptist

Missionaries in order that occupation might be given to the weaver class—a numerous class in Agra, who in return gave up to the Committee the cotton stuffs manufactured by them.

8. The different tabular statements which I have from time to time submitted will have acquainted you with the amounts disbursed for the different objects enumerated above, a *résumé* of them is therefore unnecessary. I, however, give below a summary in figures of the assets which the Committee held in its hand and the manner in which they were disposed of—

<i>Receipt.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>				
	Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.
Received from local subscriptions ...	23,467	11	0	On object I	...	1,783	15	4
Ditto Provincial Committee ...	1,21,000	0	0	" II	...	2,046	8	0
Sale proceeds of <i>daris</i> ...	12	11	3	" III	...	47,154	13	11
				" IV	...	67,987	14	3
Total	1,44,480	12	3	Miscellaneous	...	331	6	3
				Transferred to Banda	...	20,000	0	0
				Returned to Provincial Committee	...	5,176	2	6
				Total	...	1,44,480	12	3

9. The gifts of clothing received from the Central Committee were most judiciously distributed through the means of certain Missionary ladies to the better classes of needy females.

10 I believe I am correct in stating that hardly an individual was left in the city who formed a proper subject of relief and who did not receive that relief from the Committee's funds. The feeling of gratitude excited in the breasts of those who were the recipients of this charity could not be adequately described in words, nor is it possible to accurately gauge it. What the humane generosity of the English nation has accomplished by the free distribution of their means for the relief of the suffering population of this land could hardly have been achieved by an army of 20,000 men. I can safely assert from my personal knowledge of the conditions of the people among whom I have mixed freely during the period I have been acting as Honorary Secretary to the Committee, that the feeling of devotion and loyalty which the timely intervention of the relief committee has thus created is deep, genuine, and widely spread.

J. F. FANTHOME.

Acknowledgments are due to the Secretary of the Fund, Bábu Man Mohan Lal, not only for giving his services gratuitously, but also for this report.

C. W. WHISH, C.S.

4.—MUTTRA.
Collector's letter
no. 447, dated 12th
November 1897.
Receipt no. 1012

Report by the Honorary Secretary, Local Committee, Muttra.

THE rainfall from June to September 1896 being deficient and hot west wind being prevalent, the main food crops that were raised for the most part on unirrigated lands entirely failed. This was the case chiefly in Mát, Mahában, and Sadabad tahsils. These three tahsils, comprising 487 villages, form the eastern half of the district. They present the features of the Gangetic Doab, consisting for the most part of an upland plain irrigable by wells. The soil, though light, is fertile; but the chief reason of these tracts having been affected most was the distance of water from the surface. The principal crops sown in this part of the district are *juár bájra*, *makhra*, *pulses*, &c. The population is mostly agricultural, depending largely on the produce of the land. A portion of the population belonging to sacerdotal classes residing in sacred places, such as Gokul, Baldeoiji, &c., live upon alms but these form but a small proportion of the whole population. They leave their houses every year for out-stations and escort pilgrims to sacred places on ceremonial occasions. They make arrangements for their comfort, lodging, and pilgrimage, and for their trouble

they are remunerated according to the position of the donor and the nature of the services rendered. It has been stated above that the area chiefly affected was that comprising the Mát, Mahában and Sadabad tahsils. In these the probable *kharif* outturn was as follows:—

Mát tahsil.—The average outturn for this was 11 annas in irrigated areas and 7 annas in unirrigated areas. In 17 villages mostly about Mát itself the outturn on unirrigated land was only 4 annas. The areas in this tahsil were divided thus:—canal irrigated 372 acres, otherwise irrigated 9,097 acres, and non-irrigated 47,807 acres. The average outturn on the whole together was about 8 annas in the rupee.

Mahában tahsil.—In 48 villages 4 annas, in 40 villages 6 annas, and in the remaining 113 villages an average 8-anna crop was obtained.

Sadabad tahsil.—In this tahsil an average estimate over the whole tahsil was in irrigated land 4 annas and in unirrigated land *nil*.

In *Muttra* and *Chhata* tahsils an 8-anna crop was obtained on the average, but with the rise of prices of food grains in the whole district, the pinch of scarcity commenced to be felt in those tahsils about the end of October 1896.

On the first appearance of distress in the district Municipal Board of Muttra convened a meeting of its members on the 17th October 1896 to consider the advisability of starting a subscription list for the relief of the needy and helpless poor and for opening poorhouses at central stations. By their resolution dated 17th October 1896, the Committee decided to open a poorhouse at Muttra, and to raise by subscriptions a fund for the relief of those who were affected most by the famine. In accordance with this resolution a new poorhouse building was constructed on the Dehli road, sufficiently large to meet the exigencies of the new state of things. It was the intention of the Board to apply funds raised by private subscriptions to the support and maintenance of this institution. It was also the idea of the Board to start relief works in the light of the Government rules on the subject. The new poorhouse was constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,911-5-6 and able-bodied persons needing relief were employed on the construction work. On the 5th December 1896, however, orders were received to the effect that the poorhouse should be supported by the Municipality and the Government equally, and private subscriptions should be applied exclusively to gratuitous relief.

On the 28th November 1896, at a special meeting of the Board, resolutions were passed for the appointment of a relief committee, and a committee, consisting of the following persons, was formed, with instructions to collect information as to persons falling under object III requiring gratuitous relief: (1), Bábu Chhote Lal; (2), Bábu Jagannath Sarin; (3), Chaube Ram Das; (4), Lála Ganeshi Lal; (5), Lála Jagan Parshad, *Rais*; (6), Seth Keshab Deo; (7), Lála Sita Ram; (8) Lála Jagan Parshad, *Vakil*; (9), Syed Abul Hasan, Members; and (10), Bábu Man Mohal Lal, Secretary, with the Collector as President.

A like sub-committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, was formed for Brindaban: (1), Sri Bramheharji Maharáj, President; (2), Goshain Prem Lal, Vice-President; (3), Bábu Narain Das, B.A., Secretary; (4), Lála Lalta Charan, (5), Munshi Radhe Lal; (6), Chaube Ram Das; (7), Mahant Raghonath Das; (8), Bábu Parbati Charan; (9) Diwan Bhola Nath and (10) Muhammad Masud Hasan Khan, Tahsildár, as Members.

At the instance of the Commissioner of the Division the Missionaries were requested to join the Muttra Relief Committee, and the following members were enrolled:—Reverend J. E. Scott, American Mission; Reverend R. M. McIntosh, Baptist Mission; Mr. Durrant, Church Mission.

The committees formed at Muttra and Brindaban set to work by realizing subscriptions and preparing a list of persons entitled to gratuitous and other relief. The

Four wards into which the Muttra Municipality is divided were allotted as follows :— Babu Chhote Lal, ward No. I; Lala Ganeshi Lal, ward No. II; Lala Jagan Parshad, pleader, wards Nos. III and IV; Babu Narayan Das, Secretary to the Brindaban Relief Committee, distributed doles at Brindaban. The Missionaries and a few others distributed relief, to the respectable poor at Muttra as well as in the outlying towns and villages in the district.

Messrs. Bird, the Collector, and Spence, the Joint Magistrate, relieved the tenants of the whole district with grants for purchase of seed grain and cattle.

The details of the distributions of doles are given in forms A. and B. submitted herewith. The distributors, while taking care that no one who really needed relief should go without it, devoted special attention to the relief of respectable poor who hesitated to beg openly, and others who from physical incapacity or other reason were unable to earn their livelihood either by labour or begging. This, I may say, was a novel and a characteristic feature of the relief afforded at the recent famine. On previous occasions, as far as I am aware, relief was afforded only to cultivating and lower classes of people, and no care was taken of respectable poor or of persons who from disease, bodily infirmity or loss of limbs were unable to leave their homes and present themselves at poorhouses. As far as my information goes, the measures adopted during the late season of scarcity and distress had the effect of carrying relief and assistance to the needy and indigent of all classes at their very doors, and commending to them the sympathetic and humane efforts on the part of the British and Indian public whom the Almighty God prompted to come to their relief.

Before the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was set on foot measures had been locally taken, as has been said above, to raise subscriptions for the relief of the distressed, and a sum of Rs. 13,641-10-0 was collected. In February 1897 the India Famine Charitable Relief Fund was opened and the Provincial Committee allotted to this district a further sum of Rs. 66,100. The total amount available for distribution in the district was Rs. 79,741-10-0, and within nine months from December 1896 to September 1897 the whole of this amount, with the exception of Rs. 368-8-1 returned to the Provincial Committee, was doled out on the lines of Government instructions, as regards scale, modes of relief, and the objects relieved.

A general description of the manner in which relief was granted has been given above. Babu Chhote Lal, Lala Ganeshi Lal, and Lala Jagan Parshad, Pleader, at Muttra and Babu Narayan Das at Brindaban made personal inquiries within their respective charges as to persons who stood in need of relief and as far as possible personally relieved the distressed. For the convenience of the recipients arrangements were made for the distribution of doles fortnightly and the payments were entered in registers maintained for the purpose. Allowances were made at the following scales: for adults Rs. 2 per month, for children Re. 1 per month. When the prices of grain improved after the autumn harvest the scale was modified as follows: for adults Re. 1-8-0 per month, for children 12 annas per month.

The relief to cultivators was distributed by the Collector himself, and I can do no better than to insert here his note as to the manner in which the distribution of doles and the selection of objects of charity was effected. He says: "The amount for the grant for object IV of the Charitable Relief Fund allotted to this district was Rs. 60,000. It was considered best in the first instance to distribute half of this amount to enable cultivators who had remained in their villages to purchase bullocks, the balance being kept to provide seed-grain in case the necessity for it arose, and to set on their legs the cultivators who left their villages after the failure of the *kharif* harvest, and who, it was expected, would return as soon as the rains broke. The preparation of the lists was in the first instance entrusted to the tahsildars, who went through the villages of their tahsils and in consultation with the zamindars ascertained the names of the cultivators who

required the bullocks, because those they formerly possessed either had died or had been sold to pay rent or to provide money for purchase of food. The lists of tahsil Muttra were prepared under the supervision of Mr. Spencer, Joint Magistrate, and the remainder under the Collector's supervision. The distribution was also made personally by these two officers. The tahsildars' lists showed the name of the cultivator, the amount of land held by him and rent paid, the number of bullocks usually in his possession and the number which had died or were sold. As soon as these lists were ready the supervising officer went through them carefully in the presence of zamindars, patwaris, and cultivators, and decided how much was to be given to each cultivator. The grants varied from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40. It was found that the lowest price a bullock could be purchased for was Rs. 20, but many cultivators were in the habit of using buffaloes, and a buffalo can be bought for Rs. 15. In some cases it was found that cultivators were in need of a pair of bullocks, but it was believed they could themselves arrange for part of the purchase money. To such men from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 were given. As soon as the decision with regard to the cultivators of a village was arrived at, they were called up and given slips showing the amount to which each was entitled. They then went away and got receipts written by a man specially employed for that purpose. In the afternoon they produced these receipts, and in the presence of the supervising officer were paid the amount of the grant. There is therefore no doubt that the whole of the money reached them. I think it was thoroughly understood that the grants were made from the Charitable Fund for the benefit of the cultivators. There were no rumours, as far as I could learn, to the effect that the grants were made with a sinister object. The recipients have been loud in their expressions of gratitude, and they well may be, as most have been saved from ruin. The lists were in the first instance prepared as quietly as possible, and the cultivators did not quite know what they were being prepared for. Since the first distribution I have been inundated with applications for grants both from men who are really deserving of charity and from those who can very well make their own arrangements for the supply of bullocks."

From the above it would appear that care was taken in the preparation of the list of the persons to be relieved from this Fund, and that it did not include objects that were relieved gratuitously or otherwise by the Government.

The amount received from the Provincial Committee, as well as that realized locally from the subscriptions, was deposited with the firm of Raja Seth Lachman Das, C.I.E., a well-known native banker of Muttra, and as necessity arose money was withdrawn by means of cheques drawn by the Secretary to the Local Committee and signed by the Collector. Detailed account of the receipts and disbursements is contained in the registers of the Relief Committee.

Mr. Bird's note quoted above fully explains the manner in which the agriculturists under object IV were relieved. Babu Chhote Lal, Lala Ganeshi Lal, Lala Jagan Parshad, Pleader, and Babu Narayan Das distributed doles to respectable poor of both sexes. The thanks of the Relief Committee are due to these men, the Collector, and the Missionaries, who at a great personal sacrifice did the work so well and satisfactorily. The relief in this district was afforded mainly in the shape of cash payments, and the forms accompanying this report are sufficiently clear, and I think they do not require any further explanation. Fifty (50) sets of skirts and *chaddars* were also received for distribution. These, too, were distributed among the native women.

People liked cash payments and much appreciated the timely help given to them. The work closed on the 15th September 1897 with the approach of a better season, and the balance in the hands of the Committee, amounting to Rs. 368-8-1, at the end of the work was returned to the Provincial Committee for distribution in other districts.

MAN MOHAN LAL.

I FORWARD a report submitted to me by the Honorary Secretary of our Famine Committee, the Tahsildár of the Sadar tahsíl. Famine did not actually touch the district: scarcity did.

5.—FARUKHABAD.

Collector's letter no. 640,
dated 11th December
1897.
Receipt no. 1222.

E. GALBRAITH, C. S.

THE entire failure of the rains during the latter half of the monsoon of 1896 injured a large portion of the *kharif* and damaged to a certain extent the whole of it. The *rabi* sown was 81 per cent. of the normal area. The general rise in prices caused distress to a large number of people in the district. The condition of the people was certainly in a critical state in the beginning of the distress, but the prompt assistance given by the Government in the shape of takávi for wells and seed made them able to sow the *rabi* crops. Subsequently gratuitous relief was distributed by the Government, which was added to by the Charitable Fund and was brought within the reach of every person actually in need of it.

2. A local committee was formed in this district before 15th December 1896, to revise lists of persons who were considered in need of help and to open the list of private subscriptions. On receipt of letter no. 13, dated 5th February 1897, from the Provincial Committee, the committee at the Sadar was declared the district committee, and sub-committees were formed in each tahsíl on 9th February 1897. The district, excluding the municipality, was divided into six parts and the municipality was mapped out into nine circles. The relief money was distributed within the municipality by the members of the committee, who were Municipal Commissioners and full well acquainted with the state of their respective wards. In villages the money was distributed under the supervision of tahsildárs. The valuable assistance of the Missionaries was also sought, and they promptly brought to the notice of the committee the real state of the sufferers, who were immediately relieved.

3. Before the receipt of the Executive Committee's letter above referred to, relief committees did exist in the district and relief operations commenced earlier. The amount expended before March 1897 was shown in the first fortnightly statement ending 15th March 1897. Separate lists were prepared of the persons helped by the Government and by the Charitable Fund, which were compared and scrutinized to prevent the two agencies from overlapping, and separate accounts were kept of Fund.

4. The relief under object IV was restricted especially to those villages in which the landholders and tenants were very poor and which were seriously damaged from drought and where irrigation was impossible. The lists of deserving persons were prepared by the Deputy Collectors and tahsildárs jointly, and money was distributed on the spot. The sum of Rs. 21,100 was distributed for cattle and seed before the commencement of *kharif* operations and Rs. 3,814-13-9 were distributed for seed for the present *rabi* before 31st October 1897.

5. The sum of Rs. 379-2-0 was spent for the purchase of quinine as the fever after famine was so prevalent in the district that it was found advisable to distribute the medicine to the cultivating classes without any charge, as they were not in a position to purchase medicine for themselves and their families.

6. The following gentlemen took special interest and rendered valuable assistance in the distribution of relief money: (1) Reverend G. B. Ruloeh; (2) Pandit Syam Narayan, Municipal Commissioner; (3) Munshi Devi Prasad; (4) Bábu Har Prasad; (5) Kázi Umrao Ali.

PRIDUMNA KRISHN.

6.—MAINPURI.
Collector's letter no. 294,
dated 17th November
1897.
Receipt no. 1038.

Economic condition.—[Extract from the official report]—"The year, as all over the Provinces, was one of scanty rainfall and high prices. Nevertheless the district suffered less than might have been expected. It is well protected both by canals and other irrigations, and the crops on irrigated land were good. The agricultural populations were therefore fairly well off, and nearly the whole population is agricultural. The outturn was no doubt purchased at the expense of greater labour, but that landowners as a rule escaped any serious stress is shown by the absence of any increase in transfers of land, while a good proof that even the poor did not suffer in condition is furnished by the few deaths that have taken place from fever. Fever during the last two months has been very prevalent all over the district as it has been everywhere, but the increase in the mortality has been slight, which it could not have been had the general health of the people suffered from starvation.

"A considerable amount of money was given in advances for *kachcha* wells. These did a great deal of good, being constructed not only from Government advances, but by the landlords and tenants themselves. Something, too, was done towards the making of *pakka* wells, though it is to be regretted that advances for this purpose on the lower interest could not be more freely granted. The two tracts which are worst irrigated, and which suffered consequently most from the drought, are the unirrigated parts of tahsil Shikohabad and the pargana of Barnahal in the Karhal tahsil. In neither of these tracts can canal irrigation be introduced. To the north of Shikohabad complaints of percolation and waterlogging have been made in ordinary years, while in dry ones there is little command from the Bhognipur branch in this reach. To the south of the tahsil also any extension is equally impossible, the supply of water being insufficient.

"Barnahal is isolated by rivers, and canal extension there, too, cannot be effected. *Pakka* wells can be constructed to the north of Shikohabad and for a short distance to the south of the railway also. But as the land approaches the ravines this becomes impossible. It was found useless to give advances for wells in this part of the country, as in the first place they would have been exceedingly expensive, and in the next no effectual irrigation could have been obtained from them. The whole tract must, it would appear, be left to itself. It is thinly populated, and in favourable years yields abundant crops for its inhabitants, and it is only in exceptional seasons that it suffers. Application has lately been made to the Director to send a scientific borer, who could ascertain at what depth water is reached."

2. *Harvests of 1896-97.*—The autumn crop of 1896-97 on irrigated land was good, but on unirrigated land it was a failure. The outturn is estimated as follows, taking 16 annas as representing an average crop: rice 4 annas, Indian corn 9 annas, cotton 12 annas, *juar* 9 annas, *bajra* 7 annas, *urd* and *mung* 7 annas, indigo 18 annas, *marua*, *kure*, and *kakni* 7 annas, *til* 4 annas.

The spring crop was a fairly good one, as will appear from the following estimate of the outturn in annas, taking 16 annas as representing an average crop: sugarcane 16 annas, *arhar* 13 annas, wheat 14 annas, barley 15 annas, peas and gram 10 annas, *sarson* 14 annas, *bejhar* 15 annas, *gujari* 14 annas, opium 16 annas, *masur* 10 annas.

3. *Organization of charitable relief.*—A meeting was held on the 21st December 1896, and an Executive Committee formed of four members. Mr. F. Cooper, the Head Master of the Mission School, was appointed Secretary, and Lal Sheo Mangal Singh, Treasurer. The arrangements made in the Municipality were as follows: Each mohalla in the city was constituted a circle, and altogether 13 circles were formed. One of the members of the Municipality and another gentleman of respectability were appointed in each circle to prepare lists, which, when ready, were scrutinized by a Select Committee. A member of the Municipal Committee was then appointed for each circle, usually the mohalla with which he was connected, to whom the distribution of the relief was entrusted.

The arrangement in the Aet XX towns was as follows: The lists were prepared by the circle officers with the help of the *panchayet*, and subsequently tested by the tahsildárs and subdivisional officers. The distribution of relief was entrusted to a member of the *panchayet*, another member being associated with him, so that nobody might have any difficulty in finding the person to whom he might apply.

The funds locally subscribed were devoted exclusively to the relief of the respectable women in the city of Mainpuri and in all the Aet XX towns, viz., Kuraoli, Gola Bázár, Bhongaon, Karhal, Shikohabad, Sirsaganj, and Pharha. Relief to others who were incapable of supporting themselves was given from Government money. To ensure proper distribution, a set of rules were framed for the guidance of the distributing officers, a copy of which is enclosed.

The total amount subscribed locally amounted to Rs. 4,743-1-0, out of which Rs. 4,715-1-0 was distributed in giving relief to 440 respectable women in Mainpuri city and the Aet XX towns named above.

No money received from the Executive Committee was distributed in this form of relief. Rupees 11,000 received from them for expenditure on object IV, as detailed in their Circular No. 9, dated 5th February 1897, was spent as follows: Rs. 10,722 were given to 573 tenants for purchase of cattle, and Rs. 278 to 55 tenants for purchase of seed. Nearly the whole of this money was distributed to tenants in the two tracts (Shikohabad and Barnahal) referred to in paragraph 1 under head "Economic condition," as having suffered most from drought. The subdivisional officers, who were acquainted with the condition and individual requirements of these parts, assisted by two or three gentlemen actually connected with land, went over the lists drawn up by the tahsildárs, and to those persons thus selected the money was paid; but in order to ensure as much as possible that all cases of real want should come under notice, all patwáris were directed to send in lists of persons requiring relief of this kind, together with a short statement of his rent, number of ploughs, why relief was required, &c. It was only the poorer class of tenants whom it was thought necessary to help. The kanúngos tested these lists and the tahsildárs those of the kanúngos. From my own inquiries I can say that the patwáris were very honest in their selections, and all through I have found that they did the work thrown upon them by the famine with fairness, energy, and willingness.

In addition to the above sum Rs. 200 was further granted by the Provincial Committee for the clothing of the poor. This sum was received through the Commissioner of the Division, and was spent in procuring blankets, &c., for the poorhouse inmates and others.

The relief operations in this district were confined to distribution of gratuitous relief under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code. At the beginning work was started in one of the roads under the control of the Public Works Department, but as it did not attract labourers, the work was put a stop to.

In September maize and early millets began to come into the bázár, and there was a fall in the price of the staple food-grains, and consequently with effect from the 15th September the relief operations in this district were brought to a close.

I append a list of non-official gentlemen who rendered useful services in connection with the relief operations:—

Serial number.	Name.	Services done.
1	F. Cooper, Esq., Head Master, Mission School, Mainpuri.	Was Honorary Secretary, Famine Relief Fund Committee. Has discharged his duties in an efficient way.
2	Lal Sheo Mangal Singh, son of Rája Ram Partab Singh, Mainpuri.	Was Honorary Treasurer, Famine Relief Fund.
3	Pandit Bindaban, Karienda of Thakur Umrao Singh of Rakhaoli.	Gave assistance in the distribution of relief.
4	Lala Phulzari Lal, <i>Rais</i> of Karhal ...	Ditto.
5	Chandhari Saranam Singh of Bharal, tahsil Shikohabad.	Ditto.
6	Lala Bateshar Nath, <i>Rais</i> of Shikohabad,	Ditto.

Extract from "Rules for distribution of gratuitous relief from the 19th of January 1897."

In towns relief under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code will be distributed by the *panch*. The *panch* should form a committee, to whom the tahsildár will pay over the sum required for 15 days' relief, together with 25 per cent. for contingencies for the whole town. The members of the *panchayat* will distribute relief under Chapters V and X. The members for each mohalla will have a list of the poor in their mohalla under Chapter V and another under Chapter X, and the tahsildár will have a list for the whole town. The mohalla lists will be numbered serially and with the first distribution of relief a ticket, bearing the serial number on the list, will be given to each recipient in the following form: (1) Mohalla; (2) serial number in mohalla; (3) name of recipient; (4) by whom to be paid; (5) amount; (6) date. Each member of the *panch* will give to the tahsildár every fortnight a memorandum showing the total amount spent, with number of recipients. The fortnight ends on Saturday. The accounts under Chapter V should be kept separate from those under Chapter X. The distributor is authorized to give relief to all persons on the list, and in urgent cases where starvation is imminent to persons not on the list. The relief to be distributed will be—adults, Re. 1; children between 12 and 16 years, 8 annas; children between 7 and 12 years, 4 annas.

J. NUGENT, C.S.

Report by the Honorary Secretary, Etáwah District Committee.

A.—The distress owing to the cessation and scanty rainfall of the monsoon of 1896 practically affected the whole of the district. The population may be roughly estimated at 8,00,000, and the majority are entirely dependent upon agricultural operation. In that part of the district watered by the canals a fair *kharif* was obtained; but in the Jumna tract, which is all high-lying land, there was practically a total failure of the crops. Prices of food-grains commenced to rise in sympathy with the rest of the Indian markets in August. As no rain fell after that month prices continued to rise, and at the latter end of October the average price of food-grain such as *baijhar* was between 9 and 10 seers to a rupee and wheat subsequently fell to 7 seers.

B.—At the end of October it became certain that there would be a failure of the monsoon crops. Mr. C. A. Sherring, the officiating Collector, then called a meeting of all the leading *raíses* and inhabitants of the city and district to discuss the best means of alleviating the distress of the respectable poor which was bound to ensue. It was decided that a charitable relief fund should be opened at once to be confined to Etáwah city and the Act XX towns* of the district. About Rs. 10,000 was there and then collected or promised (subsequent collections brought up the total collections in the district to Rs. 14,826-2-9) and a committee selected from the leading inhabitants of the city and district was formed and Mr. G. E. Grabham was asked to undertake the duties of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

The committee subsequently met on the 28th November 1896 and a working committee of the following gentlemen was formed:—

Reverend J. A. Woodside, American Presbyterian Mission... *Chairman*.

Mr. H. B. Kinloch

Bábu Madan Mohan Das

Chaudhri Bakhsh Ilahi

Hafiz Ruh-ullah Khan

Lala Brij Kishore

Mr. G. E. Grabham

... Members.

... Honorary Secretary.

and it was decided that they should control the distribution of the Fund.

* Towns having their own watch and ward forces, and not served by village watchmen.

This sub-committee subsequently met weekly, and as it was found necessary to increase its numbers, the following gentlemen were asked to join :—

Pathak Sheo Sahay.
Mír Aziz Husain.

Goshain Gopi Lal.
Bábu Shadi Lal.

The city was then divided into circles, each of the members taking one. Lists of the deserving poor were prepared by them and they undertook to distribute the relief. Monthly grants of Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per head were given.

For the distribution of relief in the Act XX towns it was found impossible to give it without the help of the Government officials ; consequently the tahsildárs were asked to prepare lists and submit them to the committee, which lists were passed as submitted and the money sent through Government channels. In order to prevent Government and private charity clashing, the Fund was entirely devoted to relief in the city and Act XX towns, and the Collector undertook the distribution of relief to the rest of the district.

At the end of February it was found the amount collected would be totally insufficient to meet the demand for relief, and application was made to the Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Allahabad, for a grant from the Fund received from the Central Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and a sum of Rs. 8,645-12-6 has been received from March to date.

C.—Rupees 20,754-0-3 has been distributed and the total number of persons relieved 17,876 (men 1,921, women 10,195, children 5,760) counting each person according to the number of times relief was given.

The total cost of distribution was Rs. 141-15-6, being an average cost of Re. 0-10-11 per Rs. 100. Rupees 135 of this was the pay of a clerk for keeping accounts, translating lists, &c.

In the early part of the distribution of the Fund it was found that several people were receiving relief under two names, and the Honorary Secretary then introduced a system by which each person was furnished with a card on which the name, amount, and date of payment were entered, and these cards had to be produced each month before further relief was given. This system appears to have answered exceedingly well, and from the date of its introduction no further complaints were made.

Money grants were found to be most suitable and a monthly distribution. Any persons coming on the lists during the month were given a proportionate sum for the remaining part of the month.

In the city a house-to-house visitation was made by the members of the Committee in each of their circles and those needing relief were entered on the lists.

Subsequently the services of a Náib Tahsildár were lent to the Committee and he visited the persons on each member's list, and it was found that the percentage of undeserving in receipt of relief was so slight that it was unnecessary to take any notice of it. This I think reflects the greatest credit on the members of the committee for the pains they took in investigating cases ; as it is of course well known how very hard it is to distribute a Fund of this nature to only deserving people, and it is an utter impossibility to prevent a few undeserving cases creeping on.

D.—Great thanks, I think, are due to all members of the working committee, and I would particularly mention the names of Bábu Madan Mohan Das, Goshain Gopi Lal, Mír Azis Husain, Lala Brij Kishore, Chaudhri Bakhsh Ilahi, and Háfiz Ruhullah Khan.

E.—All relief operations were closed on the 15th October 1897.

G. E. GRABHAM.

Report by the Deputy Collector as to distribution of object IV money.

THE sum of Rs. 45,000 was allotted for distribution in this district. The first thing done was to select the tract in which the distribution was to be made. Distress having been officially recognised in the tract south of the Jumna, that north of this river was excluded from consideration, except a large village situated in the northern ravines of the river which was very badly off.

The next step was to select the recipients. Lists were prepared by the patwāris of every one present in the tract, with a note against the name of each cultivator, whether he was able to arrange for seed for his holdings and figures showing the number of ploughs, cattle owned by him, the number lost during the scarcity, &c. The patwāris were not aware why these lists had been called for, and consequently the lists were honestly prepared. They were checked by inquiries from village headmen and lambardars and found fairly correct.

The majority of the cultivators were found to have small holdings, averaging 5 bighas or about 3 acres. A uniform sum of Rs. 5 was therefore distributed to each one in need of help for seed-grain, this sum having previously been ascertained to be sufficient for purchase of seed-grain for 5 bighas; tenants holding more than 5 bighas being presumed to be able to provide seed-grain for the remainder of their holding themselves.

For plough-cattle distribution was made at the rate of Rs. 15 each to cultivators who had lost all their plough-cattle during the scarcity. The effect of the above distribution was that there was no cultivator present in the distressed tract who had not sufficient money to buy seed for an average holding or a plough-bullock, if he possessed none. By a practice prevailing in this part of the country known as "Rāma," two cultivators owning a plough-bullock, each combine together to plough and sow their fields.

But there were many petty cultivators in this tract who had left their homes, and gone either to the relief works open at the time, or to more favoured tracts. Subsequent lists were made of these men, and they, too, were given Rs. 5 each for purchase of seed-grain for their holding. They were chiefly under-tenants.

A distribution of one rupee each was made to all the labourers in this tract for the purchase of implements of labour.

For the Auraiya tahsil the distribution was made at tahsil headquarters; while for the Bhartna and Etāwah tahsils, distribution was made at district headquarters. The sums distributed are as follows:—

	Rs.
Paid to 6,055 cultivators for seed	30,275
Do. to 898 ditto for plough-cattle	13,350
Do. to 1,162 labourers	1,162
Transferred to other heads	150
Pay of a potdar and his travelling allowance	63
Total	45,000

This distribution began on the 7th May and ended on the 30th September, except that a sum of Rs. (4) four only was paid to four labourers on the 13th October.

R. H. NIBLETT.

8—ETAH.
Collector's letter no. 348,
dated 15th November 1897,
and its enclosure.
Receipt no. 1023.

THE report has been prepared by M. Anant Prasad, Munsif, the Honorary Secretary of the Local Relief Committee. He has given much time and trouble to the work of relief and has taken a large share in its management. I think the administration has been successful in this district; at least I have heard no complaints otherwise. The results are due in no small measure to his energy and industry.

P. U. ALLEN, C.S.

Report by the Honorary Secretary, Etah District Committee.

Area under distress.—The total area of the district more or less seriously affected is 681,063 acres with a population of 425,118; but our relief was not confined to the above number.

2. The distressed tracts were: (a) Part of pargana Souhar in Etah tahsíl, (b) some villages in tahsíl Jalesar, and (c) the whole of tahsíl Aliganj which formed the chief centre of our relief distribution under objects I and IV.

3. *Physical conditions.*—(a) Pargana Souhar is a small pargana bordering on Etah Sakit in the east. It lies along the right bank of the *Kali nadi*. There is a wide strip of low land watered from the river. In the upper land there is a large portion of sandy or *bhur* soil, and in some villages *kans* grass is to be found, especially in the north part of the pargana. To the south the soil assumes a different character, *úsar* takes the place of *bhur*, and the culturable soil is less mixed with sand. On the whole the lands of the pargana are light and poor. The pargana, though fairly provided by nature with the means of irrigation from the wells in the uplands and from the river in the lowlands, yields but poor crops in ordinary seasons.

(b) The few villages in tahsíl Jalesar that were seriously affected were those that were not protected by canal, and where the water of the wells from the nature of the soil was brackish.

(c) Of the four tahsís in the district undoubtedly Aliganj, as has always been the case with that tahsíl, suffered the most. It is an unlucky tahsíl, always with either floods, drought, blight, or some such disaster affecting its crops and never expects full harvests. Generally the poorest and sandiest parts are along the highlands above the Budh Ganga and *Kali nadi*, while *dumat* soil is of more frequent occurrence down the centre of the doab, where tracts of *úsar* and remains of *dhak* jungle are to be met with. The narrow strip of lowlying alluvial land fringing the course of the two streams compensates partly for the poorer quality of the uplands immediately above them, but the amount of culturable waste is more extensive. With the exception of the canal-irrigated area, which includes the almost central portion of the tahsíl, parts of pargana Azamnagar and Patiali, and the south-west corner, forming about three-quarters of pargana Barna, every part of the tahsíl was more or less severely affected. In Azamnagar and Barna almost all the villages on the banks of the *Kali nadi*, which form the southern boundary of the tahsíl; in Patiali the villages near the Budh Ganga; and in Nidhpur the tract extending from Nurpur and Damanpur on the Budh Ganga to Nirdonli and Himmatnagar Bajhera on the Ganges, suffered the most. In fact all the high and *bhur* lands, where the moisture is due to the rains, deficient as they were in July and August, showed the first and most symptoms of distress, irrespective of the crops that stood on them.

4. *Nature and relative importance of the crops grown.*—The produce of this part of the district is confined to the less valuable crops. In pargana Patiali *bajra* and *moth* are the prevailing crops with a field of *juar* here and there where the soil is good; cotton and indigo are also grown in other parganas, but to a limited extent. In the *rabi* barley is the crop generally grown. The other parganas, having more or less similar soil, produce the same crop and need not be dealt with separately. In irrigated tracts of land wheat is also sown; but for want of rains all crops except *makka* (maize) failed during the year under review.

5. *Economic condition of the people and their chief occupations, &c.*—The population is chiefly agricultural and by no means in prosperous condition even in ordinary times. There are labouring classes as well. Owing to the failure of crops both the agriculturists and labourers suffered. There is, however, no such custom as that of leaving their homes every year for a time for employment elsewhere.

6. *Crops obtained during two or three years preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 and nature and extent of the failure of the harvest of that year.*—During

the two or three years preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 the ordinary *kharif* and *rabi* crops were obtained, but they were neither unusually good nor in any way very bad. In 1896 the rainfall was deficient from the very beginning and the general and total cessation commenced from the last week of August, and by the middle of September the cultivators had become quite disappointed. Failure of the harvest became certain and the cultivators tried to save all they could by artificial means, but that was only a struggle against nature, and the attempt was only in rare cases and partially successful. Many villagers could obtain *makka* (maize) to a fairly moderate extent, while all the other crops failed almost entirely. The *makka* crop proved to be of greatest help to them, for with the suspension of rent and liberal *tagāvi* advances made in time by Government, they could utilize it to the full. The whole tahsil yielded an average of about 5 annas in a rupee in the *kharif*.

7. *Brief history of the organization of charitable relief within the area to which the report relates, stating the dates on which the district and sub-committees were formed, the nature and the number of the charges into which the district was divided, and the chain of agencies for the actual distribution of relief.*—With the failure of autumnal rain prices rose high and distress was apprehended. From the beginning of October 1896 people began to pour in in crowds at the tahsil and the Collector's office with applications for seed and *kachcha* well advances. This showed that it was no ordinary calamity that had to be met with. Relief measures on a pretty large scale were deemed necessary. No time was lost in organizing a regular system of relief. A meeting of all the leading zamfudārs and gentry of tahsil Aliganj and a similar meeting at headquarters were convened to consult and consider what measures were necessary to obviate the distress. The first meeting in the tahsil was held on 18th October 1896 and a general meeting was formed and subscriptions promised on the spot. Another meeting at the tahsil was held on the 3rd December 1896 presided over by our worthy Collector, P. U. Allen, Esq., C.S., who, under instructions from our benign Government, spared no pains to do all that was necessary for the relief of the poor at the personal sacrifice of his ease and comfort during the trying hot weather of 1897. It was decided that the time had come to distribute relief. Sub-committees were formed for the Aet XX towns of Aliganj, Rampur, Kadirganj, Patiali, Serai Agad, and Ganj Dundwara, consisting of three members for each circle, each of whom was also the treasurer. These sub-committees were called on to prepare lists of persons deserving gratuitous relief. These lists were then carefully tested by the pargana officer, tahsildār, and naib tahsildār and then approved by the Collector.

The sub-committees were empowered to add to or remove from the lists the names of recipients with the previous sanction of the Collector, but any two members could by unanimous opinion relieve at any time any one else deserving of relief. Sums sufficient to meet the needs were placed in the hands of the sub-committees, and these as disbursed were recouped from time to time by the tahsil, generally twice a month. These sub-committees continued to do their work with care and exactness till the very end of famine operations in September 1897. Other tahsils more or less according to circumstances followed suit. About the end of December 1896 the distress became very keen, and it became necessary to immediately distribute village relief. The supervisor *kauṅgos* were entrusted with the work; all the villages were seen and carefully scrutinized. Thus it will be seen that in the keen stages of famine no pains were spared to render all possible help to the poor within the scope and object of the Famine Code, but even that was due simply to the kind consideration and timely instructions and favour of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, whose constant support from first to last deserves our sincere thanks.

8. *Earlier measures adopted and the relief administered by the Fund.*—All this was done before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. In early stages high prices had gone a long way to cause apprehension of serious famine in the district, but with good arrangements the apprehension was removed,

although with the continuance of high prices moderate distress was more or less felt except in villages where means of irrigation were unusually ample. We had thus to start relief under paragraph 5(a) and (b) of the Famine Code, and also some test works were temporarily started. Poorhouses were opened in Etah, Jalesar, and Aliganj, and relief was freely given to the poor and indigent. It was undesirable to stint, but it was equally undesirable to be unnecessarily lavish. The Fund supplemented the Government relief: it did not, however, supplant it. In the middle of February 1897, when expenditure on both the village relief and Act XX towns was met from local and district subscriptions, aid came in from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. A public meeting consisting of all the gentry and *raïses* of the district was convened at the headquarters on 15th February 1897, and sub-committees were formed of such respectable members only for different circles as were distributing gratuitous relief. These committees continued to do their work properly and distribute the money, keeping the Government account quite separate from the consolidated Charitable Relief Fund. Exactly on similar lines relief from the Fund was administered; both were kept under the same control, supervision and direction; both kept and furnished similar accounts; and yet, as explained above, the two had nothing to do with each other. The work was occasionally checked by the tahsildár and naib tahsildár, while the accounts were properly kept at the Sadr under the guidance of the Honorary Secretary. Thus from the very beginning but one form of administering relief was adopted and continued to the very last. Relief was invariably given in cash rather than in kind, as this was found to be the easiest and best way of giving it and at the same time the one mostly liked by the people.

9. *Brief account of the relief given by the Fund.*—Gratuitous relief was the relief actually given by the Fund from first to last in the manner indicated above. Besides relief under object IV, clothes and blankets were also given to the inmates of the Etah and Aliganj poorhouses who had hardly a rag to their back.

10. *Form of relief specially successful and adapted to the condition of the district.*—A greater part of the population of the district being agricultural, relief under Chapter IV was in my opinion specially successful and adapted to the condition of the district. It was given in cash rather than in kind. The relief in seed-grain and plough-cattle proved to be of great help to the people. Liberal *taqávi* advances for construction of wells, coupled with reasonable suspension of Government revenue and rent consequent thereon, greatly relieved the agriculturists. The one afforded relief to those who had left to them some means of livelihood, while the other gave timely start to those who had lost all in the long struggle for life.

Relief in clothes also proved of great service to the poor in general. It was much liked and received with thanks by those who actually stood in need of them. It proved to them the generosity and fellow-feeling of the people of England. It was a most welcome relief to those of both sexes who had no clothing to cover them. The *parda-nashin* ladies, who for years long past had not seen fine clothes, received them with sincere thanks.

11. *Principal forms of relief under object IV: scope of operations of such relief, &c.*—Rupees 21,000 were distributed under this head in tahsíl Aliganj. The supervisor kanúgos first prepared lists of cultivators deserving relief under object IV after careful local inquiry. Ten per cent. of the villages brought on the lists were tested by two responsible officers, namely, the tahsildár and the subdivisional officer. When cultivators were called to the tahsíl to receive money the patwáris were directed to send only those on the kanúgos' lists, as also others who might wish to put forward their cases for consideration. The result was that only two or three days after the commencement of the distribution the villagers began to pour in in crowds, and then the work of selection became onerous and a little more difficult. They were invariably accompanied by the patwári and the zamindár or zamindárs. In each case a lengthy cross-examination was instituted to elicit the following

particulars: (a) The number of cattle the applicant had immediately before the famine, and (b) the number of cattle that were left to him on the day of the inquiry; also the quantity of land he held, the crop he had obtained in *rabi* and the circumstances under which he had lost his cattle.

Thus correct data were furnished to the distributors to go on without any fear of deception. Then only those cultivators were given money for bullocks who had during the famine lost all the cattle they possessed, or who had left to them only one out of four or five or more. Most of such deserving recipients received Rs. 10 as price of one bullock; some were given Rs. 20 for two bullocks, but their number was comparatively small, and they were persons who were found to have been reduced to extreme poverty and had no chance of getting help from any quarter, and who would not be able to save their business even if they were given one bullock, or who had lost all the six, seven or more head of cattle they had before the famine. Poor cultivators who had but one bullock left out of two or three were also brought on the seed lists as well as some petty cultivators without any cattle, or such as possessed no cattle even before the famine. For seed was given Rs. 4 per head. There were some who were given money both for cattle and seed. Under this category were included those that had left their homes during the famine and had returned to resettle in their villages. Money was distributed every afternoon in an open space to all the selected cultivators at one and the same time in the presence of the zamindárs and patwáris, who were distinctly warned not to take a single pie from the poor recipients in any shape or colour. The zamindárs were also instructed not to avail themselves of the opportunity to collect rents, and the cultivators were distinctly told that they should use the money for the purpose for which it was given and not to pay anything out of it to any one, and to inform the tahsildár if any one were to ask them for anything. In short all precautionary steps were taken to secure the object for which the money was distributed.

12. *Brief account of the winding up of relief operations.*—The final dole was given in the second and third weeks of September, when every person in receipt of gratuitous relief was informed that he was in future to depend upon himself for obtaining his bread and that he would no longer receive any assistance from the sub-committees. The final accounts, together with the amounts undischarged, were received from the sub-committees. The rainfall was most opportune: it benefitted and also accelerated the preparation of fields for *rabi* sowings. There was plenty of field work for all who could undertake it, and coarse grain was available at a comparatively low price. Active distress was at an end. Relief works were stopped everywhere, and the distressed portions were gradually resuming their normal condition. Inmates of the poorhouse at Etah were gradually sent away to their respective homes with necessary doles and travelling expenses. Good vegetables and the *kharif* crops were obtained, and prices commenced falling off. Clothing was distributed by the town committees and the kanúgos to persons on their gratuitous relief lists, and liberal distribution of blankets, *mirzais*, and *dhotis* before the receipt of the clothes from England saved the poor from the chill of winter. The vast majority of these persons were in the lowest depth of poverty and privation, and the addition of small comforts in the shape of food and clothing proved to be of great help. It was indeed a sight worth seeing when some of these poor with their lifted hands blessed from the depth of their hearts the most kind and liberal gentry of England, who had, while taking pity upon their forlorn and distressed condition, done the generous act of sending money and clothes to them from a distant land.

13. *Special services rendered by individuals and sub-committees.*—In connection with this head I may be permitted to mention the names of Bábu Dip Chand, Tahsildár of Aliganj, and Munshi Sayid Muhammad, Subdivisional Officer, both of whom exercised close supervision over the distribution of relief under object IV.

ANANT PRASAD.

THE district of Bareilly covers an area of 1,591 square miles, and is divided into six tahsils, *viz.*, Aonla, Baheri, Bareilly, Faridpur, Mirganj, and Nawábganj. There was a certain amount of distress in all the tahsils, but the distress in Aonla and Bareilly tahsils was more acutely felt than in others.

9.—BAREILLY
Collector's letter no.
dated 17th Novem-
ber 1897.
Receipt no. 1037.

2. The district is traversed by several rivers, of which the Rámanga, Bahgnl, and Nakatia are the most important. The chief crops grown in the district are wheat, barley, and gram in the *rabi* (spring crop), and rice, *juar*, *bajra*, maize, and pulse in the *kharif* (autumn crop).

3. The condition of the poorer classes is not very satisfactory, consisting of cultivators, artisans, and labourers, whose welfare depends entirely on the character of the harvest. When prices are normal these men pull on somehow or other, but as soon as prices become high, they soon begin to feel distress. There is very little emigration from the district at any time, the people being content to live where they are even if they get but one meal a day.

4. The crops in the two years 1894-95 and 1895-96 were not at all up to the mark. In both years the *kharif* crop was almost a failure—*dhan*, the principal crop, especially, owing to the scantiness of the rainfall. The *rabi* in both years was fair, and it was to this crop alone that the poorer people had to look for subsistence. In 1896-97 unfortunately both *kharif* and *rabi* crops were poor and prices commenced to rise immediately it became apparent that the first crop was going to be a failure.

5. As stated in previous reports, it was in September 1896 that the people began to feel the pinch of scarcity, and as the cold weather advanced the state of things became worse and worse. On 14th October a meeting was convened in the Bareilly Town Hall, consisting of the leading citizens of both the Hindu and Muhammadan communities and the members of the district staff, presided over by Mr. Hooper, the then Commissioner of the division. It was unanimously agreed and resolved that a Head Committee for Charitable Relief for the district should be started at the headquarters of the district, with branches, at all the six tahsils, and that the members should be asked to collect subscriptions. The Relief Committee was quickly formed, and commenced operations without delay.

6. A sum of Rs. 5,136 was collected, which was afterwards supplemented by monthly instalments from the Executive Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, at Allahabad, the total amount contributed by that body being Rs. 50,200 received up to date. There were also a few miscellaneous receipts and the total receipts, amount altogether to Rs. 55,363-4-6.

7. This amount was distributed to deserving persons in the district from time to time as necessity arose, and was spent as follows:—

							Rs.	a.	p.
Object I	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,069	9	7
Do. II	...	...	...	...	...	...	733	0	0
Do. III	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,224	5	6
Do. IV	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	336	5	5
Total							55,363	4	6

8. Lists of deserving persons were prepared by Municipal Commissioners in the Municipality and zamíndárs and members of the District Board in the district which, after being checked by tahsildárs, were laid before the Head Committee and finally passed. The relief was given by fortnightly doles of Re. 1 per head in almost all cases in the Municipality through the members of different wards, the distribution being subsequently tested by selected members of the Head Committee. Similarly relief was given in each tahsil by tahsil officials and members of the District Board and eventually tested by tahsildárs. In Cantonments the Cantonment Magistrate was in charge of the distribution of the relief money.

9. The amount spent on all the objects of the Fund has been shown in paragraph 7 above, and the details of the same will be found in Statement B annexed. The sums spent under objects I to IV do not call for any explanation at length. The sum of Rs. 336-5-5, shown as miscellaneous expenditure, was spent under office and contingent expenditure. Quinine, to the value of Rs. 1,631, was purchased and given to the Civil Surgeon for the distribution of pills in the district as suggested by Government and the Commissioner of the division. As the famine operations were being brought to a close, fever in epidemic form appeared in the district and committed considerable havoc amongst the cultivating and labouring classes, who suffered most from it. Accordingly, it was considered of the utmost importance that the balance in hand should be utilized in distribution of quinine in the district, and I am glad to report that the quinine so distributed has had good effect in relieving the sufferers. The epidemic was so severe that it was feared at one time that it would seriously affect the sowing of the spring crop, and the distribution of quinine at this particular time I consider to have been of the utmost benefit to the agricultural population.

10. Persons deserving of relief mentioned in section 54 and Chapter X of the Famine Code were carefully separated, the former being supported by the Collector from Government funds, while the funds of the Committee were entirely devoted to the relief of the respectable poor, particularly *parda-nashin* widow ladies, who could not be properly dealt with under the ordinary rules. The Hindu and Muhammadan orphanages here, which are partly maintained by Government and partly by private charity, were assisted by the Charitable Fund in shape of "comforts" and the like.

11. In some cases clothing was also supplied to the poor in addition to the fortnightly cash payment. Particular care was taken in the selection of persons deserving of gratuitous relief, especially in the case of *parda-nashin* women, who formed the bulk of recipients of our charity.

12. The method adopted to ensure that suitable relief should be brought within the reach of every person other than agriculturists in need of it has been explained in paragraph 8. In the case of agriculturists and artisans the following measures were taken. Duplicate lists of such persons were prepared, one by patwáris and the others by zamindárs. These lists were drawn up independently, and were afterwards compared and checked by tahsildárs and then passed by the Head Committee. Every possible care was taken in preparing these lists and in making payments, in order to see that only men deserving of help might get relief. The money, Rs. 35,000 in all, was distributed by tahsildárs personally in the presence of a member of the Head Committee, the patwári, and the head-man of the village.

13. Owing to the lateness of the present autumn crop it was under contemplation to extend the relief operations to the end of October. The occurrence of the fever epidemic, however, rendered assistance in the form of medicines a far more beneficial object than the continuance of the money doles, as the securing of a good harvest was a matter of absolute necessity, and thus the balance of Rs. 1,631 was spent in purchasing quinine as stated in paragraph 9 above.

14. Of the non-official gentlemen who have contributed so largely to the successful operations of the Charitable Fund Committee in this district, I cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by Babu Mohan Lal, Rai Bahadur. This gentleman was unanimously appointed Secretary to the Local Committee, and has throughout borne the blurt of administration of the Fund. The accounts have been maintained in perfect order by him, and few have done such ungrudging hard work as he has done throughout the operations. Considering that he is also an Honorary Magistrate, Secretary to the District Board, and a prominent member of the Municipal Board, and that the onerous duties he has had to perform could not but be detrimental to his own private affairs, his services are deserving of recognition. Pandit Het Ram, C.I.E., Munshi Ashfaq Husain, Munshi Damodar Das, Rai Bahadur, Munshi

Khudayar Khan, and Kunwar Misr Harcharan, Rai Bahadur, all did excellent work in administering the funds in the city; whilst in the district Hakím Wilayat Ali Khan, Thákúr Lakhán Singh, Lála Gopál Das, and Lála Soban Lal did good service. I do not think it necessary to mention specially the services of Government officials who did special service, but I quote the list of the officers reported for good work in my report to Government:—*Tahsildars*, Munshi Baij Nath, Sayid Asghar Ali, Munshi Muhammad Akhtar Khan, Sáýid Muhammad Ahsan, Munshi Ram Sarup; *Naib Tahsildars*, Khwájá Rahmat-ullah Khan, Chandhri Jot Singh; *Supervisor Kanúngos*, Babu Ram, Dwarka Parshad, Prag Datt; *Deputy Collectors*, Saiyid Muhammad Jawad, Munshi Amir Singh; *Head Clerks*, Bábu Naubat Rae, Hari Narayan Ghosh; *General Superintendent*, Mirza Ahmad Jan; *General Clerk*, Durga Parshad.

R. H. BRERETON, C.S.

THE Bijnor district is 1,870 square miles in area. A considerable tract lying along the Himálayas is covered with jungle, but the rest is cultivated with the ordinary crops. It has practically no irrigation except some small local canals, and *kacheha* wells can only be made in certain parts. Though the population of 7,94,000 is mainly agricultural, there are a larger number than usual of small towns and large villages and the proportion of urban population is comparatively high. About one-third of the inhabitants are Musselmáns, and a noticeable feature is the very large number of day labourers, which is larger than in any other district in the division of Rohilkhand.

2. The most important crops are rice and sugarcane. The latter gives employment to an immense amount of labour both in surface-digging the fields after sowing and in cutting and pressing the cane and afterwards in manufacturing it into raw sugar. So important is this industry, that one small railway station, Dhámpur, usually receives about ten lakhs of rupees as freight for sugar, a sum nearly equal to the whole revenue of the district.

3. In 1895 the rains ceased in the beginning of September and the *kharif* crop was estimated at only a 12-anna crop. There was no more rain until January 28th, 1896, and the *rabi* was a short 8-anna crop. Barley, which is sown in the poorer soils, was a complete failure. In 1896 there was promise of a bumper *kharif* as regards food crops, but cane had largely failed owing to the absence of winter rains. The rains, however, again stopped on August 22nd, 1896, and the late rice was a failure. The *kharif* was estimated as a 10-anna crop. Rain in November, December, and February gave a better *rabi* than in the preceding year, but the area sown was very short, so that the total outturn was only about 9 annas.

4. Still no crop was an absolute failure. Cultivators though much pressed had food, and were even able to employ labour to a large extent. The failure of the cane threw a large number of labourers out of employment for a short time in February and March 1897, but otherwise able-bodied workers could get work. What caused distress was solely the enormous rise in prices. I have calculated out that on March 15th, 1897, a given sum would only purchase 54 per cent. of the grain it would have purchased before prices began to be affected; and this was as bad as in the worst days of 1877-78.

5. The result was that a wage which would formerly support a family would now barely support the earner himself. Field labourers who are frequently paid in grain or have a patch of cultivation of their own, did not suffer so much, but the artisan, the town day labourer, the widow—in fact all classes who had to buy their food and earned money wages, and those who from any cause were incapacitated from working and were dependent on charity, soon felt the pinch.

6. As early as August 1896, it began to be seen that help was needed for certain of the poorest who were unable to work. Subscriptions amounting to some

10.—BIJNOR.
Collector's letter
439
XII—10, dated 22nd
November 1897.
Receipt no. 1077.

Rs. 438 were raised and four temporary poorhouses started in the tahsili towns of Bijnor, Najibabad, Nagina, and Dhampur. The numbers, however, who came to these were very small and many went out as the *kharif* harvest came in. These poorhouses were maintained from August to the beginning of October out of subscriptions at a cost of some Rs. 299-5-3 (*vide* page 7 of Form B), when the poorhouses were taken over by Government. The balance, Rs. 138-14-0, was spent on buying blankets and *razais* for the poorhouse inmates.

7. In December and January distress began to grow much more acute, and it was advisable that something should be done for the poor and particularly for *parda-nashin* widows in towns. Accordingly committees were formed in 17 towns or large villages, a secretary and treasurer appointed for each. Subscriptions amounting to over Rs. 12,900 were promised and Rs. 8,800 realized. Lists of widows and others needing help were prepared and scrutinized and some help given in the beginning of February. It was intended that as far as possible each town should arrange for its own poor, but a few larger sums were paid into a general fund in order to supplement the local subscriptions where they fell short.

8. In the beginning of February I got your invitation to join the general relief fund and called a meeting of representatives from each town, and on February 15th it was agreed to join the general fund. Subscribers, however, still wished that as far as possible their subscriptions should be devoted to the particular town or village for which they had given it, and their wishes were carried out.

9. The doles to be given were fixed to be Rs. 2 per mensem for adults, Re. 1-8-0 for children over 12, and Re. 1 for children under 12 years of age. These were given in February and March; then when the *rabi* harvest came in and prices fell they were reduced to half that amount; in August, when pressure became severer, three-quarters of the amount was given, and in September, when the *kharif* cheap grain began to come in the half dole was given.

10. The method of transacting the business was as follows: There was a head committee at Bijnor. Each town committee sent to it fortnightly a simple statement showing the balance in hand, any fresh subscriptions realized, the number of people relieved during the fortnight with ages, the amount spent, balance remaining and estimated requirements for next fortnight. These were checked in the headquarters. If the town committee had funds in hand it was authorized to expend so much, if not, a sum necessary to make up its requirements was sent it from the general fund. In the general fund were put certain larger subscriptions before alluded to, other subscriptions received for it and the contributions from the Provincial Executive Committee. This system worked very well, though it was sometimes difficult to get the accounts in time from the town committees.

11. In villages the more respectable classes had not so much need of relief as in towns. They are fewer in number and better known and could be relieved by Government officials. The committees therefore confined their operations to the 17 towns and larger villages. In towns the respectable classes, *i.e.*, *parda-nashins*, are more difficult to get at. They are only known to their immediate neighbours and would often die rather than accept charity from an official. Several of the members of the committees told me of women refusing relief when they heard their names were on a list, and of others who would only accept it if it were given when none of the neighbours knew. It was thus recognised that in towns relief under object III could best be carried out through the committees, while that in villages was left to the circle relief officers. Persons of the lower classes were generally, except in cases of utter infirmity, referred to poorhouses.

12. The actual distribution was carried out by the members of the town committees, to each of whom was assigned a circle or a ward of a town.

13. In one instance some enemies charged the secretary of a town committee with embezzlement, but he was able to refute the charge entirely.

14. Though cultivators did not suffer as a rule from actual want of food like artisans, they were brought to an extreme pitch of financial exhaustion by the recurrent losses of so large a portion of four successive harvests. Many of them had sold their plough-bullocks or had lost them and been unable to purchase new ones, and had not the wherewithal to purchase seed. The gift of Rs. 40,000 for object IV from the Central Committee was therefore most welcome. I have already reported to you the method of obtaining lists and of distribution of this sum, which was done through official agency.

Probably the indirect effect of this magnificent gift was double or treble its direct effect. Directly no man was given more than enough to buy one pair of bullocks and seed for 10 bighas of land, however big his holding was. But with 10 bighas sown he would probably be able to get advances from his *bania* on its security, which would enable him to better his position further. Again, by a certain amount of their tenants being aided, zamindárs were able to help others with the funds released, and so the snowball rolled on.

15. The accounts generally explain themselves, but there are one or two points requiring notice—

- (a) The total amount is larger by Rs. 6-15-10 than that reported in the fortnightly returns. On closing the famine accounts the sum was found at Najibabad tahsil, and was a balance of sums collected locally before the committee was formed which had not been reported before.
- (b) Of Rs. 440 received from England for the district, Rs. 260 were specially ear-marked for aid to cultivators in buying seed and cattle, and were expended accordingly over and above the Rs. 40,000 received for that purpose from your Committee.
- (c) The details of the accounts will not agree entirely with the fortnightly details, as the expenditure previous to the formation of the Fund was shown in the latter under object III, and has now been shown under object I.
- (d) The amount spent on clothing is not absolutely correct, for some small sums were given by charitable persons direct to the managers of the poorhouses for this purpose; the blankets or *razais* were bought then and there and given to the inmates and the sums did not appear in our accounts.

II. FRASER, C.S.

THE distress in this district affected principally the high sandy *bhár* tract and the rice-growing villages. The area affected was thus about 200 squares miles.

2. The high prices, however, affected the labouring classes and poorer classes in all the towns. With the exception of the help given for the purchase of cattle and seed the Charitable Fund was applied to helping the poor in the towns only. The drought in 1896 killed the rice in the Dátaganj rice-growing villages, and very seriously damaged the usual *kharif* crops in the *bhár* villages. The latter managed to raise a poor *rabi*, but the hard baked clay in the rice villages could not be ploughed or sown.

				<i>Kharif</i> outturn.	<i>Rabi</i> outturn.
<i>Bhár</i> villa. es	...	...	...	6 annas.	8 to 10 annas.
Rice villages in Dátaganj	...	...	...	4 do.	4 do.

3. When in September 1896 it became apparent that the *kharif* would be poor and prices higher than before private charity decreased, and so those who usually lived on alms and were unfit for work had to be provided for. Subscriptions were raised locally and a poorhouse established from October 1st at the Sadr. This was taken over by Government on 1st November 1896.

11.—BUDAUN.
Collector's letter no. 259,
dated 6th November 1897.
Receipt no. 953.

The funds were then applied to relieving respectable and decrepit poor in the towns of the district so as to enable them to keep out of the poorhouse.

Sub-committees were therefore started at Bilsī, Ujhāni, and Salaswān, composed of the Municipal members, and in the Act XX towns of Dātaganj, Alapur, Usehat, Kakrala, Bisanli, Mundia, and Islāmnagar, composed of tahsildārs and the members of the * "Panch." The District Committee was affiliated to the Provincial Committee by its resolution of the 1st March 1897. The District Committee and the sub-committees raised a local subscription of Rs. 6,911-4-0, which was subsequently supplemented by an aggregate grant of Rs. 12,200 from the Provincial Committee. A sum of Rs. 36-4-3 was obtained from the sale proceeds of yarn and ropes prepared by the distressed persons at Bisanli and Dātaganj. The total sum thus placed at the disposal of the District Committee was Rs. 19,147-8-3 entered in Form A. The money of this Fund was lodged with the Government treasurer with whom it remained till 1st May 1897, when under the orders of the Comptroller-General it was transferred to the personal ledger accounts.

Expenditure.

4. Government relief in this district comprised only—(1) test works; (2) one poorhouse. No charitable funds were spent at the test works except Rs. 2-12-0 for milk for children. The only expenditure in the poorhouse, after it was taken over by Government, was for clothing. Rs. 52-9-9 was spent at the dispensaries in giving food to poor patients. As there was no Government town or village relief there was no possibility of the Government and Charitable Fund Relief clashing.

As regards the help given to agriculturists the tahsildārs and myself settled what the villages should be and the lump sums to be given to each. The tahsildārs then, with the help of the local zamindārs, made out the detailed lists which after sanction by me were used for taking the receipts of the recipients who were paid by the tahsildārs themselves.

5. An expenditure of Rs. 362-8-0 was incurred on object I in maintaining the poorhouse and hospital patients, while Rs. 9-4-6 was spent by Mr. Lylo in relieving certain orphans in Ujhāni. Rs. 9,775-11-9 was disbursed through the members of the Municipal Board and other gentlemen of position to distressed persons who could not earn their livelihood and were not fit to be put in a poorhouse. Rs. 9,000 was distributed among cultivators for purchase of plough-cattle and seed. The details are in the statements and need not be repeated here.

6. The last relief was given in the fortnight ending 30th September 1897, after which no further funds remained. Accounts have been called in from all sub-committees and examined. The only discrepancy found was in the month of July when in one case the income had been deducted from the expenditure and only the balance reported. An amended statement is now attached. As the closing balance was the same the returns in the succeeding months are not affected.

(Sd.) E. J. MARDON, C.S.

Honorary Secretary, Central Relief Committee, District Moradabad.

A.—The period from the autumn of 1896 to that of 1897 in this district was not so much of actual famine as of scarcity and distress, due to high prices, and the distress was felt mainly by the labouring classes and the poor of the better classes. The cultivating classes suffered comparatively little, for the autumn crop of 1896 was, though poor, by no means a failure. During the whole period the district exported grain largely to other more distressed tracts. The distress, such as it was, extended to the whole district, an area of 2,303 square miles, containing a population of 1,179,398. It was rather more severe in an area which may be roughly estimated at 200 square miles, where owing to a sandy and deteriorated soil, the crops were especially poor.

12.—MORADABAD.
• Honorary Secretary's
letter, dated 17th Decem-
ber 1897.

Receipt no. 1268.
• Raja Jai Kishan Das
Bahadur, C.S.I.

2. The crops of the two preceding years were decidedly below the average, and the severity of the distress was aggravated by this fact. With the exception of this tract the district is of the ordinary Rohilkhand type, and grows the crops usual in this part of the province, the most important being sugarcane, wheat, barley, rice, and millets. The northern portion owing to its proximity to the mountains, received a better rainfall than the south, and consequently suffered less.

3. The town population of the district is large, and the number of respectable but poor Muhammadans in three large towns of Moradabad, Amroha, and Sambhal is exceptionally large. The suffering was greatest among these people, and they received the bulk of the charitable relief awarded to the respectable poor. Poor-houses were required at the four municipal towns of Moradabad, Chandausi, Amroha, and Sambhal, and the number in the poorhouse at the last named place were all through specially large, as it provided relief for the poor of the sandy tract already mentioned, in which the funds at the disposal of private charity were exhausted at an early period.

4. The loss in cattle in 1896-97 was probably not great; but there had been very considerable mortality amongst them in the sandy tract during the two or three previous years. In distributing the money for purchase of seed and cattle more than three-fourths was awarded to this comparatively small tract, and the money has undoubtedly been a great boon to the recipients. The area cultivated and the yield of the various *rabi* and *kharif* crops from 1894-95 will appear from the appendix. The autumn crop yield of 1896 has been estimated at 10 annas all round, whilst that of the spring crop of 1897 was, after allowing on the one hand for a deficiency of 25 per cent. in the area, and on the other for the increased value of the crop due to high prices, probably not short of 12 annas. Some of the distress in the district was due probably to the holding back of stocks by cultivators and grain-merchants, which intensified the effects of short harvests and exportation in raising price.

5. I am not aware of any special custom in the matter of emigrating temporarily except in the north of the district, where cattle are driven to graze in the submontane tracts of the Tarai.

6. B.—Owing to the prevailing scarcity and consequently distress some of the gentry of the Moradabad city established a purely non-official committee on the 2nd August 1896. The Committee raised subscriptions and helped the deserving objects of charity without any regard to caste or creed, with grain and money up to 4th September 1896. The money thus spent was Rs. 890. Later on the regular district committee was formed on the 9th December 1896, and the following sub-committees were formed on the various dates mentioned against them:—

Name of place.			Date of formation of Committee.	
Tahsil Thákurdwára	9th January 1897.
Do. Amroha	11th ditto.
Do. Belari	25th ditto.
Do. Sambhal	28th ditto.
Do. Hasanpur	29th ditto.

7. The relief in the shape of clothing, cattle, and seed as well as relief to orphans, was distributed under the superintendence and orders of the District Magistrate and Collector through his subordinate officers. The relief to the *parda-nashin* women and the respectable poor was given under the direct supervision of the committee.

8. The expenditure of the Government money and the Indian Charitable Relief Fund was under separate managements. The management of the relief works, and poorhouses opened by the Government was in the hands of Government servants. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was expended partly by the Collector of the district and partly by the Committee. The Government money was spent on relief

works as well as gratuitous relief, while the Indian Charitable Relief Fund was used for gratuitous relief only. The Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund extended its helping hand to the respectable poor who could not, according to the rules, have been helped by persons in charge of poorhouses and relief works, on the ground that they would not undertake manual labour or become inmates of the poorhouses. Thus the two funds did not overlap, but supplemented each other.

9. C.—The Charitable Relief Fund helped two orphans whose selection was made by the Collector. Money from this Fund was also spent under the direction of persons in charge of poorhouses in the purchase of clothing for such of the inmates as were in urgent need of it. Relief was also given to the cultivators for the purchase of seed and cattle under the directions of the Collector, and the money so given was distributed through his subordinates. The Collector apportioned the amount necessary for every pargana according to its wants. The list of cultivators deserving of help was prepared through the tahsildárs, and the money was distributed directly through the subordinate officers. Every possible precaution was observed in the preparation of such lists. The officials distributing the money were, however, allowed free discretion in not giving relief to any persons mentioned in the list whom they did not think deserving and in giving it to such others as were in their opinion best entitled to it.

10. To ensure that relief was brought within the reach of every person in need of it, strict supervision was maintained, and the result of it was that punishment was meted out to some cunning patwáris. One was dismissed for furnishing false information, another was prosecuted for an offence under section 403, Indian Penal Code, but he escaped punishment; and a third was convicted under section 392, Indian Penal Code, for having extorted money from a tenant to whom it had been given for seed.

11. In Moradabad city and municipality and the chaukidári towns in the district there is a large number of respectable poor including *parda-nashín* women who depend for their livelihood upon petty trade, such as cotton spinning, needlework, &c. With the rise in the prices of food-grains the demand for the products of such people's labour considerably decreased and with it their income. Living became dearer and these people found it extremely hard to maintain themselves. Besides this class of people there were others who depended for their support on friends and relatives in easier circumstances than themselves. But they totally withheld or curtailed their support as they could not afford to continue it during the prevalence of high prices. It was these people who were beyond the pale of private charity, which can bring help to professional beggars and to members of the lower and menial classes only, and who could not go to the poorhouses, that deserved the utmost sympathy. The local committee undertook the work of giving assistance to them. I dare say that funds could not have been better spent than in relieving the distress of these people, who, but for the timely help given them, would have felt the keenest pinch of hard times. In doing the work the committee met with difficulties. The initial difficulty was the preparation of a list of the really needy people. On the one hand there were people who rushed a little too eagerly to take advantage of the help which they did not in reality stand in need of, whilst on the other there were others who were too shy to make their distress known and ask for help. The committee took great pains in ascertaining and finding out who were the persons who really needed help. Cases were met with in which help was accepted with the greatest reluctance, and it was not until the recipients were given the fullest assurance that their names would on no account be disclosed that they could be persuaded to accept the offer. There were a few families which not long ago were in affluent circumstances and owned considerable property and did thriving banking business, &c., but through the vicissitudes of fortune had lost their wealth and fallen into straitened circumstances. Their case was the most pitiable, and the committee was specially anxious to help them. A Hindu lady very generously came forward with a handsome

donation for the help of such families, and relief was given them in accordance with her wishes. Help was given to them in the most inoffensive manner. Their names were not entered in the registers though the sums were shown in the accounts. The registers were not accessible to any one except to a few members of the committee, and every precaution was taken to minimize the unpleasantness which accompanies the receiving of charity. There was some difficulty in getting proper persons to do the responsible work of distribution of funds. In the city of Moradabad it was entrusted to the local Government Treasurer, who handed over the money at the houses of relieved people in the presence of the members of the committee residing in that mohalla. As far as possible the committee arranged for the distribution of money in the mofussil towns by means of respectable persons who could be thoroughly relied upon. There is no orphanage under Hindu or Mohammadan management here. The American Mission maintains an orphanage which is in a flourishing condition. The artisans of Moradabad have not suffered to the extent of requiring any help from the committee in any shape.

12. Special services were rendered in the district by the following gentlemen :—

(1) Lala Dwarka Das, Government Treasurer, distributed relief money with great care and accuracy to every *parda-nashin* lady in the city who was a fit object of charity in the presence of members and *sarpanch*. He even distributed money out of his own pocket to some whose names were not down in the register, but who were in his opinion deserving of charity.

(2) Munshi Inayat Ali, Honorary Joint Secretary, was of great help to me in the preparation of the register of persons among whom relief money was to be distributed in the city. In my absence he also did all the work connected with the mofussil.

(3) Mirza Nasir-ud-din Muhammad, Asad-ulla Khan, Muhammad Shuja Ali Khan, Thakur Durga Singh, and Munshi Ishri Sahai were of invaluable help to me in the selection of the persons among whom relief money was to be distributed, as well as in testing the accuracy of lists prepared by other gentlemen. In this they acted with impartiality.

(4) In the committee of Amroha the services of Munshi Sheo Narain, Rais, Amroha, and Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Dhyani Singh were in every way valuable.

(5) In tahsil Bilari the services of Babu Jwala Nath, B.A., Secretary, Municipality, Chandausi, deserve special mention.

(6) In Samlhal only Sahu Shyam Sundar Lal's services deserve mention.

13. The relief operations have been wound up.

14. Mr. C. Rustomjee, I.C.S., very kindly undertook the post of President. The success attained by the committee in its aims is due to his close supervision and necessary instructions from time to time, for which the committee is greatly indebted to him.

15. In conclusion I must express my acknowledgments to Mr. Peter, the former Collector of Moradabad, for a note giving the information required for Part A of the report.

JAIKISHAN DAS.

(MORADABAD) APPENDIX.

Statement showing area and outturn of kharif crops.

Grain.	1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.		Remarks.
	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	
Rice	584,087 acres.	12	471,744 acres.	12	407,146 acres.	6	<p><i>Kharif, 1894-95.</i>—A few light showers fell at the beginning of June 1894, but the regular monsoon commenced from the middle of July 1894. The abnormally heavy rain which fell on the 25th and 26th July, 9th, 10th and 24th August and 4th and 5th September 1894, injured the <i>bajra</i> and other <i>kharif</i> crops. The outturn of the <i>kharif</i> crops was poor.</p> <p><i>Kharif, 1895-96.</i>—The regular monsoon set in from the middle of June. The heaviest rains recorded all over the district were on 30th June, 1st July, and 13th August 1895. These injured the early <i>kharif</i> and the entire cessation of rain from the 7th September damaged the <i>juar</i> and <i>bajra</i> crops. The outturn was poor. The promise of a fine <i>kharif</i> was spoiled by the premature cessation of rain.</p> <p><i>Kharif, 1896-97.</i>—As in the previous year, the regular rains set in from the middle of June 1896, and went on well till the 25th August 1896, when they practically ceased. There was a little more rain about the third week of September, but dry weather meanwhile had caused serious damage, especially to the rice crop. Late rice was almost entirely lost.</p>
Indian-corn	...	10	...	10	...	12	
Cotton	...	10	...	10	...	12	
<i>Juar</i>	...	10	...	10	...	12	
<i>Bajra</i>	...	10	...	10	...	12	
<i>Urd</i> and <i>mung</i>	...	10	...	10	...	10	
Other crops	...	10	...	10	...	10	

Statement showing area and outturn of rabi crops.

Grain.	1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.		Remarks.
	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	Area.	Outturn in aunas.	
Sugarcane	573,555 acres.	13	607,021 acres.	4	633,720 acres.	11	<p><i>Rabi, 1894-95.</i>—The cold was severe in the beginning of February, and though no positive damage to the <i>rabi</i> crops was reported, the outturn of wheat was poor, the grain being small and the ear light, while the straw was in excess. Sugarcane, too, was a poor crop in most parts of the district, owing to excessive rain.</p> <p><i>Rabi, 1895-96.</i>—The yield of harvest was poor owing to the absence of regular winter rains. The rain was abnormally deficient for the requirements of the <i>rabi</i> crops, and the outturn was consequently bad.</p> <p><i>Rabi, 1896-97.</i>—Rain after November was not quite sufficient. <i>Arhar</i> was damaged by frost and other crops by high dry winds in February and March. Sugarcane was poor; very little gram, &c., was sown.</p>
<i>Arhar</i>	...	13	...	8	...	8	
Wheat	...	13	...	8	...	12	
Burley	...	13	...	11	...	12	
Pear and gram	...	13	...	11	...	12	
Other crops	...	15	...	11	...	11	

THE district has an area of 1,752 square miles, with a population of 918,981 souls according to the last census. It is purely an agricultural district, and the economic condition of its people is practically the condition of its seasons and harvests. No such custom as that of leaving their homes for employment abroad exists among the people of this district, and even under the stress of acute famine they are most unwilling to go on relief works.

2. The district was almost wholly affected by famine owing to the high prices of food grains; but according to a statement furnished by the Collector the area that suffered most from drought generally comprised those parts of the district where the rice cultivation is largest. This included about 1,187.58 square miles with a population of 615,659. It covers a large part of the parganas of Jamour (in the Sháhjáhanpur tahsil), Nigohi and Jalálpur in the Tilihar tahsil, and of the tahsils of Jalálabad and Powáyan. A large portion of the parganas of Jamour, Nigohi, and Jalálpur lies in low lands. Tahsil Jalálabad has its soil mostly sandy *bhúr*. The Powáyan tahsil has a large portion under forest. The remainder consists of mere sandy plains, and the soil where culturable is mainly *bhúr*.

3. The district has suffered considerably from short harvests for several years

		Proportion on 16 annas.			
		1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>Autumn crops.</i>					
Rice ...	...	12	13	9	6
Indian corn ...	...	12	6	10	6
Cotton ...	...	9	7	12	10
Juar ...	...	10	8	16	6
Bajra ...	...	11	8	10	7
Urd. mung ...	...	10	6	14	4
<i>Winter crops.</i>					
Sugarcane ...	...	16	7	12	8
Arhar ...	...	13	12	10	6
Wheat ...	...	11	8	8	13
Barley ...	...	13	8	8	14
Peas and gram ...	...	10	9	6	6

of 1895-96 is said to have been much more felt here than elsewhere in the division. The consequence was that the actual stock of grain at the commencement of 1896-97 was depleted, the available capital was reduced, and credit, on which for the most part the people have to work, was diminished. The general population thus had no sufficient means in the beginning of the year to withstand the effect of the extraordinarily high prices then prevailing. However, their hopes depended on the *kharif* harvest, which for some time continued to be promising; but owing to the character of the rainfall in June and July, and its entire cessation at the end of August 1896, the result was very disappointing. The failure of the September rains not only reduced the autumn crop to little below half the normal outturn, but also effected very seriously the prospects of the coming *rabi*, and owing to the lack of moisture in the soil the area sown was much less, say 60 per cent, than the normal quantity.

4. In June 1896, signs of acute distress became apparent, and as time went on the intensity of the famine grew more severe. Prices of food grains rose very high and the number of beggars increased. The rural population could procure no food: the grain-dealers to a large extent kept back their stocks. They all flocked to the city and moved aimlessly about the town from door to door. Measures of relief were at once adopted by the Collector; test works were opened, poorhouses started, and subscriptions raised. First of all a poorhouse was started at Tilihar on the 15th June 1896. At Nawáda, a suburb of this city, one was opened on the 23rd July 1896, and one at Powáyan on the 27th. These poorhouses were maintained partly from municipal funds and partly by charity collected in the district, an account of which will be given later on. Gratuitous relief was also given by the Collector, partly from funds raised by subscription and partly from Government funds, in the shape of money doles to respectable persons in the city and other important towns, which continued till February 1897.

5. When the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was constituted it was arranged that the Charitable Relief Committee should undertake the work in the towns of the district, while the Collector was responsible for the villages. A com-

13—SHAHJAHAN:

Chairman's letter no. 502, dated 20th Novem. XV, 1897.

Receipt no. 1080.

mittee was formed for the district on the 29th March 1897, with sub-committees for each important town, *viz.*, Tilhar, Powáyan, Katra, Khudáganj, and Jalálabad. The District Committee was presided over by the Judge, the sub-committees of Tilhar and Powáyan by the Munsifs, and those of Katra and Jalálabad and Khudáganj by men of position in those towns. The city was divided for the distribution of relief into six circles, each of which was in charge of a member of the committee who had a good knowledge of the locality. The funds were deposited with the Government Treasurer. Lists were prepared by the members and sub-committees and after approval by the Central Committee the amount was sent out for distribution by issuing cheques month by month. Each distributor kept a register or list showing the names of persons relieved and the amount paid them. Meetings of the District Committee were held fortnightly for some months, and later monthly. Accounts were received fortnightly from the members and sub-committees and laid before the District Committee for approval. Relief was for the most part confined to *parda-nashin* women of good family who had no means of support. The total amount of the remittances received from the Provincial Committee up to the 31st October 1897 was Rs. 91,700. Adding to this the sum of Rs. 5,604-6-3 raised by subscriptions in the district between July 1896 and January 1897, the total comes to Rs. 97,304-6-3, which was devoted to objects I, III, and IV alone. For the sake of convenience I take these objects one by one, giving an account of relief under each.

6. *Object I. (a.) Supplementing the Government Relief.*—A sum of Rs. 592 has been spent under this head of expenditure out of the remittances received from the Allahabad Committee, *plus* Rs. 3,940-0-1 out of the district subscription money. This latter sum was chiefly used in maintaining the poorhouses open in June and July 1896 before Government auction had begun. About Rs. 1,440-2-0 were spent in supplying clothing to the inmates, and the rest in rations and comforts and charges of establishment. The Nawada poorhouse was managed by Maharaj Badri Prasad, Rái Bahadur, a member of this Committee. According to the accounts furnished by the members the management of all the poorhouses appears to have been very satisfactory. All these poorhouses were superintended by a Government servant equal in rank to a náib kanúngo, whose work was again supervised weekly by a Deputy Collector specially deputed for the purpose, and daily by the tahsildár of the locality, under the general supervision of the Collector. The cooking was done by paid Bráhmans. The inmates were fed twice a day, and the sick cared for by a compounder under the supervision of the hospital assistant, who used to visit them daily. The highest number of persons attending during this period was 811.

The maintenance of these poorhouses depended upon charity, in some instances till September, and in others till October 1896, after which they were taken over by the Government, which continued to support them at its expense till the middle of October 1897, when they were all closed. In March and April 1897, when the District Charitable Relief Committee was formed, a sum of Rs. 200 was given to Maharaj Badri Prasad, manager of the Nawada poorhouse, and Rs. 200 to the tahsildárs of Tilhar and Powáyan each for distribution of clothing among the inmates of poorhouses under their respective care. A sum of Rs. 276 was paid to the Collector for the same purpose in June and August, when he drew the attention of the Committee to the miserable state of newly-admitted inmates, who hardly had a rag to cover their nakedness.

(b) In the beginning of April a supply of 50 woolen belts and 50 jerseys was received from the Provincial Committee; but as the season was not then suitable for their use, they were reserved for the cold weather. In September last the Committee decided that they should be made into petticoats after the native fashion, otherwise they would not be so useful, and distributed to the sick and infirm in the poorhouse at Nawada, and this was accordingly done through the agency of Maharaj Badri Prasad.

7. *Object III. (a) Relief of respectable persons*—Relief under this head was given in a very simple form in the shape of free money grants to respectable persons and families in a state of destitution who would not consent to leave their homes, distributed bi-monthly by the members of the city wards and the chairmen of the sub-committees in person. The rate of payments were determined according to their age, as indicated on the margin. These rates were, however, reduced by one-fourth from August at the suggestion of the Provincial Committee. About two-thirds of the persons on relief lists were *parda-nashin* women of good families, the greater number of them being Musalmáns. The highest number of persons relieved in any one month was 2,455, consisting of 366 men, 1,898 women, and 136 boys and 55 girls.

At Tilhar it is also reported that a large number of respectable women of this class was relieved privately and secretly, whose names were not shown in the list, to save their feelings of respect. As to the sum thus expended we have had of course to accept the word of the local distributor.

The total expenditure under this head comes to Rs. 23,461-4, to which may be added Rs. 1,600, part of the district subscription money, by which this class of paupers, numbering 826, was gratuitously relieved by the Collector in December, January, and February before the constitution of this committee.

This kind of charity was undoubtedly most welcome, as it reached in the hour of need, and it is solely due to this fund that thousands of lives have been saved; otherwise many of this respectable class of people would without the slightest doubt have perished miserably unknown to the Government from starvation.

(b) In June last a bale containing 215 skirts and 132 *chaddars* was received by this Committee out of the clothing so kindly sent out by Mrs. Hauser from England. They were distributed chiefly amongst the most destitute women of good families in the city and other important towns of the district, the largest share of course going to the city. They were received by them with the liveliest expressions of gratitude and admiration: they remarked on the fine quality of the cloth and the tasteful patterns. Indeed most of them had never in their lives seen such fine garments. Many asked that their names be sent to Mrs. Hauser to express their thanks for her kind gift. As skirts are not used by Muhammadan females, nearly half of the supply was cut into trousers, and thus one skirt sufficed for two recipients. The whole supply was distributed to 370 women, excluding the town of Tilhar, whence the account of distribution has not yet been received in spite of repeated reminders. The committee say that, looking to the number of sufferers, the supply of this clothing was comparatively very small.

8. *Object IV.*—The expenditure under this head was managed by the Collector, and the sum of Rs. 67,200 received for the purpose was made over to him by the committee. No detailed account of the mode adopted for distribution has been received from him, but it is understood that lists of the persons to be relieved were made by the village officials and were checked, and the money paid by the Deputy Collectors on the spot. The whole allotment was expended in May and June 1897 in grants for the purchase of cattle and seed. The total number of persons relieved under this head was 5,280.

9. *Miscellaneous expenses.*—The figure shown under this head in the statement is Rs. 511-2, consisting of Rs. 446-12, received from the Provincial Committee, and Rs. 64-6-2, part of the district subscription. Out of Rs. 446, Rs. 46 have been expended upon stationery and postage stamps, and in paying the salary of two muharrirs entertained from the 16th April at the request of the members to help them in keeping account and distributing the alms; one for wards Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and the other for the other three wards. These appointments were, however, reduced in the middle of June. Rupees 400 were paid to the Collector in October last for the

purchase of quinine* at the request of Government, owing to the great prevalence of malarial fever in the district. No extra establishment was entertained by the District Committee: everything was done in the Judge's office; the account having been kept by the munsarim. Every care was taken to ensure economy.

10. There is no balance now in the hands of the committee, all having been spent up to the end of October 1897. At the last meeting held on the 30th October the committee were of opinion that there still existed strong necessity for the distribution of personal relief, and that such necessity would exist till the end of the month of November, particularly among the non-agricultural population of the city and town, and the chairman was requested to apply to the Provincial Committee for a further allotment of Rs. 3,000. The Honorary Secretary was accordingly addressed on the subject, but the Provincial Committee have intimated that no further allotment can be made, and practically relief operations have now been wound up and the committee will be dissolved.

11. The members of the committee named on the margin have shown great interest and zeal in the execution of the committee's work. They say that as far as they have been able to study the feelings of the people, the majority of them are exceedingly grateful to the donors. The charity has generally been very highly valued and effected a great deal of good. It has saved a great bulk of the agricultural class from total ruin and turned thousands of beggars from death's door. They say that it has produced a very firm impression upon the minds of the public that the English people will not suffer them to die of starvation, and that this coming to their assistance with such generosity has established a very strong bond of sympathy between the two countries; and they feel that they can rely upon the English nation in time of need.

In conclusion the committee wish me to tender their heartfelt thanks to all the subscribers and donors of the Fund, and to the Local Government and Government of India for the sympathetic support rendered to the distressed people of this country and of this district.

J. J. McLEAN, C.S.

14.—**PILIBHIT.**
Enclosure to Collector's
letter no. 339
XII-37², dated
22nd November 1897.
Receipt no. 1083.

1. *Area in which there has been distress.*—The distress prevailed throughout the whole district, the area of which is 1,373 square miles, of which 149 square miles are occupied with forests.

2. *Physical condition.*—This is a central submontane district, bordering on Nepal territory and the Tarai. The climate is generally bad and malarial fever very prevalent.

3. *Nature and relative importance of the crop grown.*—The chief crops are rice, sugarcane, wheat, and barley. Of these rice is the most important of the *kharif* food crops, as wheat and barley of the *rabi*, but the cultivator's credit depends chiefly on his sugarcane, as sugar-making is the chief industry of the district.

Of the two harvests, *kharif* and *rabi*, the former is more important than the latter. A *rabi* harvest, however good, can hardly compensate for the failure of a *kharif* harvest, as the food of the people is chiefly rice and the coarser grains grown during the *kharif*. Wheat is consumed by the wealthier classes only.

There are other crops of inferior importance in the district, such as gram, Indian-corn, *bājra*, *juār*, *kodon*, *marua*, *sāma*, and the pulses. All of these, excepting gram, appertain to the *kharif*.

* This charge of this sum has been corrected in the accounts: it is now rightly shown under object I.

4. *Economic condition of the people.*—In the north and north-west portions of the district the people as a rule are a very poor lot. Their houses are small, in many cases built only of grass, and in the hot weather very many villages are burnt out. They are indifferent cultivators and the climate is very unhealthy. Their landlords are averse to improving them, as they prefer to rule them as slaves. Landlords lend cattle and seed, the tenant ploughs and sows, and the greater half of the produce goes to the former. In the southern portions, however, the tenant is bolder and better, has more rights and fights for them, and is decidedly wealthier. The district is not celebrated for any industry, as agriculture is the chief occupation.

5. *Chief occupations and existence of any special custom.*—The table given below shows the percentages of persons following different occupations:—

Agriculturists	...	...	...	...	67.35
Traders and bankers	..	.	...	...	5.63
Profession	...	...	...	...	0.88
Artizans	...	...	...	...	5.94
Menials	...	...	...	...	4.47
Labourers	...	...	...	...	10.44
Others	...	...	...	...	5.29
Total					100.00

The agriculturists constitute a little more than two-thirds of the total number of the people. Next to them are the labourers, who are a tenth of the entire population.

In only the northern parts of the district do the people leave their homes for a time for employment elsewhere. Many go after reaping their own crops to help reap those in the Taráí and Nepál, where there is a scarcity of labour and the harvests are later than in this district.

6. *Crops obtained during the two or three months immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97.*—The crops obtained during the two or three months immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 were as given below: rice 5 annas, Indian-corn 14 annas, *juár* and *bájra* 10 annas, *kodon*, *marua*, and *sáma* 12 annas, pulses 5 annas. The *kharif* was about a six-anna crop, i.e., five-eighths of the harvest was entirely lost. The nature and failure of the harvest will be judged from the figures given above. Rice, the most important *kharif* crop, yielded only a five-anna outturn. The area under rice was 46.78 per cent. of the total area sown with *kharif*. Late rice was entirely lost, and it is the more valuable part of the *kharif*. Indian-corn was good, but unfortunately but a small area was sown with it.

The area sown with *rabi* in 1897 was only 65 per cent. of the normal. Owing to the want of rain in August, September, and October gram was a complete failure. With this exception the *rabi* turned out an excellent crop on the area sown. It was, however, exported in large quantities, which kept the prices abnormally high.

7. *Organization of the district and sub-committees.*—The persons who first felt the pinch of famine were those who compose the heggar population. Private charity contracted and Government relief was thus first given in the shape of poor-houses. In November 1896 some rain fell and labourers for a time obtained work on the fields. In December the respectable poor in the town began to suffer. It was in that month that a district committee was formed, consisting of 27 native gentlemen as members, with the Collector of the district as chairman, and a Deputy Collector as secretary. Subscriptions were raised in the district and distribution at once commenced to the respectable poor. Aid from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was first received on 25th February 1897. The district was not divided into any number of charges, as the distribution of relief in the shape of money doles under heading III was confined to the city of Pilibhit and to the respectable poor and *parda-nashín* women, who could not labour in the open, and whose scanty

incomes dwindled to nothing as the demand for the work they do at home fell off. The distribution was carried out by a sub-committee, consisting entirely of non-official members. The distribution of this sort of relief in the interior of the district was made entirely under the Famine Code from the Government allotments, and therefore necessitated the formation of no sub-committee. Relief in the shape of work was given to the able-bodied by Government relief works, both in the town of Pilibhit and out in the district. Those unable to work in the town were relieved by the town sub-committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and those out in the district by Government officials with Government money. Relief in the shape of clothes and money to repair houses and to purchase seed and cattle, provided from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, was of course not restricted to the town. Clothes were distributed by the Collector and individual members of the Committee. Money for repair of houses was distributed by the Collector after inquiries made through native gentlemen. When malarial fever broke out quinine was distributed through every available agency, both official and private. In the last three forms Government provided no relief.

The above account will show how the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund were prevented from overlapping those of Government, and what earlier measures were taken before that Fund was formed.

8. *Account of relief actually given from first to last.*—The relief actually given from the Fund from first to last was as follows:—

(1) *Money doles: object III.*—The total amount distributed under this head from December 1896 to September 1897 was Rs. 14,739. This was given principally to *parda-nashin* ladies in bad circumstances in the town of Pilibhit. The city was divided into wards, and a list drawn up each month for each of them. The money was then disbursed by the members of the committee in charge of each ward.

(2) *Distribution of clothing: objects I and III.*—The amount expended under this head was Rs. 450. The clothes were distributed by the Collector, assisted by members of the sub-committee, who drew up lists; as Government gave no relief in this form, it was not confined to the town, but was given all over the district. In respect to the clothes sent out to India I would like to point out one aspect. They were such as only the respectable poor *parda-nashin* women could wear. The latter no doubt were in need of them, and from my own experience I can say that they were most grateful and thankful to their English sisters for them; but these clothes were of but little use to the labouring women—those who worked out in the open and earned a starvation pittance on Government relief works. Their earnings just kept body and soul together and left no margin for clothes, and they were most of them clothed in rags. The coarse, strong, native cloth supplied to them stood the wear and tear of their work, but the clothes supplied to them out of those received from home did not last very long. Yet these in my opinion were the women who most needed clothes, for the *parda-nashin* live indoors, while the labouring poor have to go out. The majority of clothes sent us were of too fine a texture and not fit for rough use.

(3) *Money assistance for purchase of plough-cattle and seed: object IV.*—The amount expended under this head was Rs. 67,180. This is the form of relief which I consider did more good than any other, as it helped the people to help themselves. It enabled them to sow their land during the rains of 1897, and saved from collapsing the chief industry of the people. To this form of relief is due the excellent *kharif* crop now being reaped, and it put heart and comfort into many a desponding wretched cultivator, who saw no chance of his being able to plough and sow his land. Twenty-four sub-committees of resident landlords were formed. They drew up lists which were checked by the Collector and his assistants. The lists were then entered in registers, and the money distributed personally by the Deputy Magistrate and his two chief assistants to the persons entered in the lists, and they certified to its proper distribution. This relief was distributed over the whole district. It

was given in cash and not in kind, and about 14 days before the time for ploughing and sowing, so that the people might not be tempted to expend it on anything else. Subsequent inquiries have shown that in 95 per cent. of cases the money has actually been expended in cattle and seed. In one case a man, finding himself unable to cultivate his land, actually returned the sum given to him.

(4) *Money assistance for thatching houses: object IV.*—The sum expended under this head was Rs. 3,473-12. In the dry hot weather the villages in the north part of the district are continually being burnt out. In an ordinary year the inhabitants can afford to rethatch and repair them, but in the present year there were many who could not do so. To enable them to keep a roof over their heads during the rain they were helped. The services of the leading resident landlords were used to enable the proper recipients to be discovered. Over and above this when the Government poorhouses were about to be closed in September inquiries were made regarding the condition of the houses of the poor residents therein. In every case they were found to be in a ruinous condition. To aid them in re-starting a home, aid was given them over and above the dole for food given from Government money.

(5) *Distribution of quinine: object I, other relief.*—The district is notorious for malarial fever. The famine of 1877-78 was followed by an outbreak of fever, and the same was the case this year. In September it commenced, and it was of a most virulent type. The inhabitants of the town suffered most. The population of the town is approximately 33,500 souls. In September there were 524 deaths; in October there were 1,297. The population of the whole district is only 485,500 (approximate). In the month of October 5,228 persons died. In the present month, though the death-rate is high, it has much decreased. The death-rates for the above figures are—

Pilibhit town, September	...	...	{ 15·6 per 1,000 per month or
		...	{ 187·2 ditto annum.
Ditto, October	...	...	{ 38·7 ditto month or
		...	{ 464·4 ditto annum.
Pilibhit district, ditto	...	...	{ 10·76 ditto month or
		...	{ 129·12 ditto annum.

A sum of Rs. * 2,353-5-4 was expended in quinine, which was distributed in 5-grain packets free throughout the whole district. Every possible agency, official and non-official, was utilized, and applications for it poured in from all sides. The above figures prove the necessity for it.

In arranging for the distribution of relief in this district every effort was made to see that those actually in need of it received it. The methods adopted under each head have been already mentioned, but the principle underlying all our methods has been to utilize the services of benevolent non-official natives resident in the places where the relief was needed. The services of only the higher paid officials have been used where necessary; but in every case they have been guided by, and have acted on, the advice and local knowledge of persons who live among the people and know their wants and needs. The statistics contained in Forms A and B are self-explanatory and need no repetition here. Special items of expenditure only need be mentioned. A sum of Rs. 50 was expended in supporting certain poor people who had to be treated in hospital, for whose support there was no other source of income.

9. *Winding up of operations.*—Excepting the expenditure on quinine, the relief operations of the Fund came practically to an end by the 30th September 1897. The monsoon, though late, was favourable. The *kharif* crop turned out an excellent one, and by end of September prices began to fall. A demand for labour of all sorts had set in, and with a few exceptions the people were once more beyond the need of relief. The distribution of money for food and clothes was stopped at the end of that month, the recipients being warned that they must for the future depend on

* A great part of this was actually paid away only in November 1897.

their own efforts, and the accounts were made up in October, except in regard to quinine. With the distribution of this medicine the operations were finally closed in the beginning of November, and the district, after suffering more or less from famine and bad harvests for nearly two years, has once more assumed its normal aspect. A special clerk at a salary of only Rs. 20 was employed for one month to put the accounts into proper order.

10. Amongst so many private persons who have willingly lent their services and time in the distribution of relief it is hard to name some without fear of injustice to others; but I must bring to notice the names of the following native gentlemen who threw themselves heart and soul into the work, *viz.*, Sahu Lalta Parshad, Sahu Ram Parshad, Lala Debi Parshad, Honorary Magistrate; Kazi Zaki-ud-din, and Kazi Khalil-ud-din—all of Pilibhit town; Sheikh Nazir Ahmad of Dang, Izzatdar Khan of Jahanabad, Naick Abdul Rahim Banjara of Neoria, Kunwar Darshan Singh and Kunwar Munna Singh of Madho Tanda, and Gopal Ram Kurmi of Mundia Bilehra. These are all non-officials. Of officials I need say little. The Assistant Collectors did their duty and lent their aid in spite of pressure of hard and extra work. Among others are two men of perhaps lowly station in life, *viz.*, Khettar Mohan Biswas, Head Clerk of the Collector's office, and Gobind Sahai, Famine Clerk; but they lent their services free of charge in keeping up the accounts and the correspondence of the local Committee, and worked heartily and well in spite of heavy official duties. Theirs was perhaps "the widow's mite."

11. If it be any satisfaction to those who subscribed to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to know it, I can inform them that their aid given so generously and freely at a time of famine and distress, has been fully appreciated and valued by the people. It is hard for them to understand that others, who have never seen them and are of a different nation, should so generously aid them in their time of trouble. The history of the past shows that they have not been accustomed to such generosity from others, and they therefore appreciate all the more the aid which has now been given to them. The country is emerging from troublous times. It has seen plague, pestilence and famine, and even battle, murder and sudden death have not been absent. There has been sedition and rumours of another mutiny, but with these the mass of the people have had little concern. What is chiefly before their eyes is their own trouble, and they can and do appreciate the aid which has been so generously bestowed. The operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have done more than anything else to bind them more firmly to the ruling power in the country.

W. TUDBALL, C.S.

RAI KISHAN LAL, the Subordinate Judge, is sending his report on the administration of the Famine Relief Fund at Cawnpore. As he cannot mention his own services, being the writer of the report, and as I have no connection with the Fund to enable me to discuss its administration, the only way for bringing his work to your notice is a demi-official letter.

He has devoted a good deal of time to the collection and administration of the Fund. He has shown tact by making himself agreeable to everybody—not an easy thing to do in Cawnpore. The Fund has to the best of my knowledge been well managed, and there has been no unpleasantness among the subscribers. I have recommended to the Commissioner that he receive the thanks of Government, and shall be glad if you will bring his services to the notice of the Executive Committee. It has been a great relief to me to find no scandal or bitterness caused in working the Fund. In a place like Cawnpore an injudicious or careless Secretary might have done a lot of harm.

A. W. TRETHEWY, C.S.

15—CAWNPORE.
Collector's demi-official
letter, dated 1st Decem-
ber 1867.
Receipt no. 1162.

The rainy season of 1896 commenced about the usual time, the middle of June. The district had about the average rainfall till the end of July. Some rain fell in August, but there were only a few showers in September. The situation therefore became serious. October came on, and the rain still held off. Prices rose to double what they were in August. Loans were advanced for *kachcha* wells, and test works under the management of tahsildars were started on *kachcha* roads. Two poorhouses—one at Cawnpore and the other at Narwal—were opened. Rain was general in the middle of November, doing much good to cultivators. Agricultural prospects improved, but prices did not fall. In December two more poorhouses were opened at Ghátampur and Bhognipur. Village relief on a small scale was also commenced. Food-stocks were sufficient for ordinary purposes, grain being imported, but not largely. Two more poorhouses at Akbarpur and Shiurájpur were opened in January, and village relief was fully developed. At the end of that month very heavy rain fell, entirely obviating the necessity of further irrigation; but the rainfall by checking irrigation threw the labouring classes out of work, and thus further depressed their condition. Though prices began to fall in the city, outside there was not much change. By the end of the month the whole of the district was affected by famine. In the month of February there was no change in general condition and prospects of crops, but the *rabi* crops on irrigated lands, which were very promising at first, suffered much later on; the high winds doing great damage. The physical condition of the people deteriorated in marked way, but not so much as was originally apprehended. The chief occupation of the people in the district is agriculture and labour. A large number of the working class in the city of Cawnpore are employed in the local mills. The annexed table shows what crops were obtained during the two years immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97, and also the extent of failure of the harvest of that year:—

Honorary Secretary's
report, dated 10th December
1897.
Receipts, 1898

Preliminary information
and operations before
the formation of the Local
Famine Relief Committee.

As soon as distress on account of famine began to be felt in the city of Cawnpore, the leading *raïses* under the guidance of the Collector of the district took steps to meet it. They at first subscribed Rs. 500 in September 1896, and this amount was spent on famine-stricken sick paupers. Under the management of the District Civil Surgeon, Dr. Armstrong, a temporary hospital for them was established near the dispensary.

In October 1896, when attention was drawn to the miserable condition of certain immigrants from the neighbouring districts of Hamirpur, Jalaun and Unao, some residents of the city subscribed Rs. 2,766, and opened a poorhouse at Jnhi Gausala. This institution was taken over by Government in November.

The district was brought under the operation of the Famine Relief Fund about the middle of February 1897. It was on 11th February 1897 that a meeting of the leading natives of the town was held at the Town Hall, at which Mr. A. W. Trethewy, the Collector, presided. The meeting was addressed by the Collector and the Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper, and a provisional committee was formed, consisting of the following members:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Rai Kishan Lal, B.A., Subordinate Judge. | (6) Lāla Madho Ram. |
| (2) Lāla Sheo Parshad, Rai Bahādur. | (7) Bābn Sidh Gopal Misra. |
| (3) „ Dargahi Lal, Rai Bahādur. | (8) Lāla Puran Chand. |
| (4) „ Jamna Das. | (9) „ Gaya Prashad. |
| (5) „ Juggi Lal. | (10) Pandit Pirthi Nath. |
| | (11) Dr. M. N. Gangauli. |
| | (12) Munshi Saifullah Khan, Tahsildār. |

Several meetings of the committee were held at the house of Rai Kishan Lal to adopt measures for the collection of subscriptions in the town. The Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper undertook to circulate the subscription list amongst the principal European residents.

But the district committee was not regularly organized till 12th March 1897, when a general meeting of the inhabitants of Cawnpore was held at the Town Hall, Cooperganj, at which Mr. A. W. Cruickshank, the Commissioner of the division, presided. The meeting was addressed by the President, the Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper, Pandit Pirthi Nath, and others. It was announced at the meeting that subscriptions amounting to Rs. 35,000 had been promised. Two committees were constituted as follows:—

Local Famine Relief Committee organized.

- (1) The executive committee of the Fund formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions and regulating this expenditure, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper, Mr. J. C. Faunthorpe, Rai Kishan Lal, and Bābu Sidh Gopal Misra.

- (2) A sub-committee of the Fund, the duty of which was to ascertain from time to time the objects to which the Famine Fund might be applied and to report thereon to the executive committee, consisting of:—

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (1) Muhammad Saif-ullah Khan, Tahsildār, | (4) Lāla Puran Chand, |
| (2) Bābu Sidh Gopal Misra, | (5) „ Dargahi Lal, Rai Bahādur, |
| (3) „ Madho Ram, | (6) „ Sheo Prasad, Rai Bahādur, |

to which were subsequently added Bābn Banke Behari Lal, City Munsif, and Pandit Kanhaiya Lal, Haveli Munsif. Rai Kishan Lal was appointed Honorary Secretary. In accordance with instructions contained in the letter from the Honorary Secretary, Provincial Committee, dated 31st May 1897, the Collector at the request of the Committee appointed on 26th May 1897 Bābu Sita Ram,

Deputy Collector, to be Honorary Accountant of the Fund. The Alliance Bank of Simla have been the bankers of the Fund.

Organization of charitable relief in the town.

For the purpose of relief to respectable poor and *parda-nashinis* the city was divided into 21 circles, each in charge of a respectable native gentleman. They were supplied at a time with money sufficient for a month's distribution. Money doles were distributed at these centres from 1st March 1897 to 30th April 1897 every day, and from 1st May 1897 to 30th September 1897 once a week, every Sunday. The work of city distributions was supervised by the District Magistrate and also by the following gentlemen:—Mr. J. C. Faunthorpe, Mr. J. C. Fergusson, Rai Kishan Lal, Bábu Jai Gopal Banerji, Bábu Banke Behari Lal, Pandit Kanhaiya Lal, Munshi Saif-ullah Khan, Tahsildár, and Rai Dargahi Lal, Rai Bahádur.

Organization of relief in the district.

Two circle officers in every tahsíl of the district and an extra Náib Tahsildár in each of the B'hognipur, Ghátampur, and Narwal tahsís, which were the most affected parts of the district, were appointed by Government for the supervision of relief under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code. These Circle Inspectors and Náib Tahsildárs when they went round their circles for testing and revising the lists under Chapters V and X were supplied with money from the funds of the Charitable Relief Committee for distribution to persons who required help, but were not actually in danger of starvation, and were not fit subjects for Government relief. They had to visit every village in their circles periodically to enquire into the condition of the sufferers. The people relieved in the villages from the Charitable Relief Fund were chiefly *parda-nashins* and high caste people, who would prefer death to begging or to going to poorhouses. The Tahsildárs and Subdivisional Officers and some members of the District Board were also provided with money for distribution to the same class of persons. The names of the persons who received money from the Famine Relief Fund were entered on the back of the list of recipients under Chapters V and X, so that there was no possibility of the two reliefs overlapping each other, and of the same person receiving relief from both sources. It also enabled officers to check one list while testing the other.

Summary of relief actually administered.

The object the Famine Relief Committee had in view was to supplement the measures adopted by Government for relief of famine. It thus materially helped the respectable poor and *parda-nashins* in the town and district; to a limited extent it provided small comforts and clothing to inmates of poorhouses and to patients in poorhouse hospitals; it did something to help the support of orphans, and lastly it has given very substantial help by money payments to artisans in the district and to agriculturists for cattle and seed grain, varying in amount from Rs. 10 to Rs. 40 to each individual. This last kind of relief was given only to those who were ruined by the scarcity. Great care was taken in selecting the recipients. A list of the most deserted villages was first prepared in each tahsíl. Patwáris of all such villages then prepared lists of cultivators who had lost their all and had no means or materials for cultivating their holdings. These lists were then examined and tested by Náib Tahsildárs and Tahsildárs, and were submitted to the Subdivisional Officer, who examined the lists and tested a great many on the spot. They made necessary additions and modifications, and satisfied themselves of the accuracy of the lists. When the lists were thus complete, a date was fixed in each tahsíl, on which the recipients were summoned to the tahsíl, and the money was paid to them before the Subdivisional Officers, each recipient being identified by the patwári, zamíndár or head-man of his village. A few who could not attend at the tahsíl for some reason or other had money sent to them through the post-office by money-orders. The clothes received from England through the Calcutta Committee were greatly appreciated by the respectable poor and *parda-nashins*, to whom they were distributed, though the fashions in all cases were not what would suit their tastes. Under object II the relief of orphans, the Committee on full inquiry found that the

Hindu orphanage (started originally for famine orphans by a few charitably inclined endnated natives) was deserving of support. It was favourably reported on by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Armstrong and by Mr. J. C. Faunthorpe, who inspected it. The Committee sanctioned a grant * of Rs. 2 per month per orphan to the orphanage from August 1896. When the relief operations of the Committee closed, it was found that fever prevailed throughout the district. As the Government supply of quinine had not yet been received, the Committee sanctioned the purchase of 10lbs. of quinine and 10lbs. of cinchona, and it was sent to all tahsils and police-stations for free distribution. It is believed that it did good to a great many people. An infirmary for siok persons, orphans, and lepers, has been supported by the Fund since 26th September 1897, when the Government poorhouse at Juhi (Cawnpore) was closed.

The total amount which was received by the Committee was Rs. 1,15,844-14-7, Receipts and expenditure. Rs. 47,144-14-7 from local subscriptions and Rs. 68,700 from the Provincial Committee. The money received from the Provincial Committee was wholly spent outside the city in the district. The Committee has spent altogether Rs. 83,764-8-3. The Committee had in its hands Rs. 32,170-6-4 on 30th September 1897, when gratuitous relief distribution was closed, the relief in the district having been stopped some time before. There were altogether about 70 proceedings of the Executive Committee. It may be noticed that the Fund has been administered with the least possible miscellaneous and office expenditure. A clerk on Rs. 20 per month was sanctioned by the Committee for the Honorary Secretary's office, but he found it practicable to carry on the work without making such appointment.

The Committee notice, with satisfaction that the operations of the Fund in the Cawnpore district have materially helped people in the town and district in tiding over a trying period of exceptional difficulty. Without such help people might have sustained great privations. Many cases of real want have been met. The thanks of the Committee are due to all members and to all gentlemen who have helped it by willing co-operation. With liberal contributions from the local mills, Cawnpore, as the leading commercial town in the United Provinces has been able to maintain its reputation. The munificent donations of the Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper and Mr. A. McRobert and the efforts of Lala Madho Ram (of the firm of Messrs. Phul Chand Makhan Lal) in collecting subscriptions from native gentlemen are worthy of special mention.

Concluding remarks.

KISHEN LAL.

Preliminary information.—The most affected area of the district was the southern portion of it which measured about 582 square miles; but the relief was distributed over the entire area of the district.

16.—FATEHPUR.
Collector's letter no. 135, dated 27th November 1892.
Receipt no. 1133.

2. The partial failure of *rabi* crops of 1303† fasli, the complete failure of the *khari* crops last year owing to early cessation of the rains, and the very indifferent *rabi* which followed made it inevitable that we were on the verge of a serious calamity. In November 1896 people began to be seriously alarmed and prices continued to rise steadily, till by February 1897 it became difficult for the poor classes to get their daily meal. This district being purely agricultural the agricultural classes did not care to leave their fields and go to test works, and many of them resorted to the jungles in order to gather *jharberi*, a species of wild plum; *adg* was also eaten wherever it could be procured.

In February 1897 the district was officially declared to be distressed.

* This grant though sanctioned was not paid until after 31st October 1897.
† Corresponds to July 1895—June 1896.

3. The following table will show the outturn of crops during the three years immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97, 16 annas denoting a full crop:—

Name of crop.	1893-94.		1894-95.		1895-96.	
	Character of harvest.	Extent of injury.	Character of harvest.	Extent of injury.	Character of harvest.	Extent of injury.
<i>Kharif.</i>	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice ...	16 0	...	12 0	4 0	15 6	0 6
Indian-corn ...	16 0	...	15 0	1 0	14 6	1 6
Cotton ...	12 0	4 0	9 0	7 0	12 9	3 3
Judr ...	12 0	4 0	10 0	6 0	12 0	4 0
Bajra ...	11 0	5 0	9 0	7 0	11 6	4 6
Urd, mung ...	9 0	7 0	9 0	7 0	12 4	3 8
Other crops ...	16 0	...	14 0	2 0	15 6	0 6
<i>Rabi.</i>	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Sugarcane ...	16 0	...	14 0	2 0	10 0	6 0
Arhar ...	14 0	2 0	13 8	2 4	11 7	4 5
Wheat ...	12 0	4 0	10 0	6 0	10 0	6 0
Barley ...	12 0	4 0	11 0	5 0	8 7	7 5
Peas and gram ...	15 0	1 0	10 8	5 4	10 5	5 7
Other crops ...	12 0	4 0	10 8	5 4	12 5	3 7

4. The subjoined table shows the extent of the failure of the harvest of 1896-97, 16 annas denoting a full crop:—

Name of crop.		Character of harvest.	Extent of injury.
<i>Kharif.</i>		As. p.	As. p.
Rice ...	...	1 0	15 0
Indian-corn ...	...	8 0	8 0
Cotton ...	...	2 3	13 9
Judr ...	...	1 6	14 6
Bajra ...	...	2 6	13 6
Urd, mung ...	...	2 0	14 0
Other crops ...	...	6 6	9 6
<i>Rabi.</i>		As. p.	As. p.
Sugarcane ...	...	11 8	4 9
Arhar ...	...	13 7	2 5
Wheat ...	...	12 10	3 3
Barley ...	...	11 8	4 9
Peas and gram ...	...	8 0	8 0
Other crops...	...	12 10	3 2

5. *Account of organization of district system of relief.*—On receipt of your letters nos. 9 and 13, dated 5th February 1897, a general meeting was held and four local committees were organized in the month of March 1897, one for each tahsil. These local committees consisted of respectable zamindars and mahajans as members and the tahsildar of each tahsil as chairman. Thus the district was divided in respect of the Charitable Relief Fund administration into four major charges which were again sub-divided into minor charges according to the number of members. The relief was distributed through the agency of these members. Besides the above the distributions were also made by the subdivisional officers, and the special famine officer (Mr. Cumings), and in the Fatehpur city by Pandit Ram Prasad, Deputy Collector, and myself.

6. In this district no list of recipients under object III could be maintained, as the *parda-nashin* ladies and respectable persons who came under this head protested against the procedure of bringing their names on the records as recipients of charity.

7. The charitable money was also spent in supplementing the Government dole, such as in extra diet and medical comforts to poorhouse inmates, as well as in some cases to the recipients of gratuitous relief for clothing, &c. The relief thus afforded from the Charitable Fund was much appreciated and was most gratefully received.

8. In February 1897 a census was taken in conformity with the rules issued with G. O. No. $\frac{75}{8}$, dated 9th January 1897, and lists under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code were prepared, and deserving persons began to receive gratuitous relief from Government through the head-men and other respectable persons of the village. On the receipt of the money from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Executive Committee local committees were organized, and the objects for which the money had been received were fully explained to the members, and then they began to relieve those respectable *parda-nashins* and other persons who had hitherto abstained from asking Government officials to help them. Each member of the local committee was distinctly made to understand that he was not to give the money out of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to the recipients of Government relief except for extra comforts. The greater portion of the Fund received in this district was distributed by Government servants above the rank of a tahsildár, and I am quite certain that every farthing of this Fund has been most judiciously spent and only for objects for which it had been subscribed.

9. *Account of relief actually administered.*—This Fund has undoubtedly saved the lives of many respectable *parda-nashins* who would have rather starved themselves to death than seek Government relief. In many cases I actually sent the money to the starving *parda-nashins* through respectable ladies, as I was aware that they would not under any circumstance take the money through the members of the local committees. As an instance I may mention that when I went to Hathgaon town I sent for the *Kázi* of that place (a man of wealth and position) and asked him if there were any persons who were in want of relief but were not getting it. He replied that there were a number of *parda-nashin* women who were actually starving, but who would under no circumstance ask for Government relief. I gave this gentleman Rs. 50 out of the Charitable Relief Fund and requested him to go and distribute it among the starving *parda-nashins*. He told me very plainly that these women would not for fear of disgrace accept this money from him. I then induced him to go and ask his wife to take this money and to distribute it, and it was after great persuasion that she consented to do so. I have not the slightest doubt that it will give great satisfaction to the subscriber of the Fund to find that they have actually saved a number of lives which the Government relief could not have saved.

As will be seen from Statement B, 9,543 souls were relieved under head III. The 102 skirts sent from England were distributed through the members of the local committee to the most deserving and respectable persons, who received them very gratefully and showed every mark of gratitude.

10. Mellin's food and Triticine food were also supplied and given to the children and infirm paupers in the poorhouses, and were much appreciated.

11. The cattle money and the money for seed grain was distributed by Messrs. Cuming, Ashworth, Coupland, and Burton with every care to see that the relief actually reached the hands of the people in need of it. Twelve thousand nine hundred and sixty-five persons were by means of this dole enabled to resort to their occupations. A list of all the agriculturists in the district who had lost their cattle was prepared by the patwáris and checked by the members of the local committees and circle officers, and from those persons whose names had been entered in the lists the most deserving cases were selected and on dates fixed they were given the money to buy plough-cattle.

12. *Special items of receipt and expenditure.*—A sum of Rs. 12:-3-3 was given to Reverend H. Forman, American Presbyterian Mission, on account of carriage of grain which he distributed in some places in this district.

13. *Winding up of relief.*—Relief measures of all sorts (Government) were in this district stopped on the 20th September 1897; but the distribution of charitable money was continued till it was finally closed on the 6th November 1897. The unspent balance of the Fund, Rs. 157-2-0, was sent back to the Provincial Executive Committee on the 17th November 1897.

SAIYID HABIB-ULLAH, S. C. S.

DISTRESS has prevailed during the year 1896-97 over the whole of this district. The district is situated in the Allahabad Division of the North-Western Provinces, and has an area of 3,061 square miles, with a population of 705,000 souls, according to the census of 1891.

2. The physical characteristics of the district resemble those of the rest of Bundelkhand. The northern portion consists of a plain drained by the rivers Ken, Baghin, and Paisani and tributary streams. On the banks and in the vicinity of these rivers the ground is broken and poor, with the exception of a very narrow strip of alluvial soil immediately bordering the streams: further away from them are extensive black cotton soil tracts, which in a good year return enormous crops of wheat and gram. The south of the district is hilly forest country, and above the first range as one enters the hills from the plains there is an extensive table land of inferior quality of soil, where water is scarce and the population poor, and to a large extent aboriginal. Beyond this again there is a second and higher range of hills, which are entirely covered with forest, and contain practically no cultivated area.

3. The district is purely agricultural, and contains only one town, Banda, with a population of more than 10,000 inhabitants.

4. With the exception of the Káchhis and Kurmis, who are numerically of small importance relatively to the population of the district, the inhabitants of the district are indifferent cultivators, and are improvident and careless in their habits. No attempt at irrigation is made except in the immediate vicinity of village sites, and an attempt which was made to induce them to irrigate from temporary wells during the end of last and the early part of this year, was a failure, except where it was carried out under the immediate supervision of a Government official.

5. Depending as the district does entirely upon seasonable rains for its crops, any failure at once results in a certain amount of distress. The first class to be affected is the labouring class which is comparatively large and also poor. The labourers of the district are employed by the large cultivators to prepare the land for seed, sow the land and reap, thresh, and winnow the grain. In return for their services they are allowed a certain proportion of the outturn. On this they live throughout the year, eking it out with such wild fruits and other edible jungle products as they can collect. When there is a failure in the harvest two results ensue: (a) the cultivator in place of employing labour prepares the grain for the market himself, thus leaving his labourers to earn their bread elsewhere as best they can; (b) prices rapidly rise, and the labourer who does succeed in getting other work, cannot afford to buy sufficient food for himself and his family. In the case of a very severe failure of the crops, the results extend further up the social scale, reaching successively the small cultivator, the non-cultivating landlord, and last of all the peasant proprietor.

6. It must be borne in mind in estimating the seriousness of the famine of 1896-97, that for the previous three years the district had been hard hit. The spring harvest of 1894 was damaged by rust and hail, and the autumn sowings were washed out of the ground by flood; the rains continued so late that much of the grain of the rain crops rotted in the ear. The spring crop of 1895 was again very severely damaged by rust, and the rains of 1895 were insufficient and ceased early. The

17.—BANDA.

Collector's letter No. 47, dated 11th December 1897.

Receipt no. 1226.

result was that ploughing for the winter crops of 1895-96 was in many places impossible owing to the hardness of the ground ; and the spring harvest in 1896 was almost a total failure. The *mahua* crop failed entirely in March, and during the whole hot weather relief on an extensive scale was necessary.

7. The rains of 1896 commenced favourably, and a large area was sown. Crops germinated well, and the middle of August promised to give a magnificent outturn. The rains then suddenly ceased, and September and October were practically rainless. The damage done was extensive : for with a return of the hot west wind the crops shrivelled up, and in many cases never came to maturity. If 20 annas be taken to represent a bumper crop, and 16 annas an average crop, the outturn is estimated to have been as follows : rice 2 annas, cotton 6 annas, *juar* 6 annas, *bajra* 5 annas, *urd* and *mung* 4 annas, *sawar* and *kakun* 13 annas, *til* 9 annas, *kodon* 12 annas, *mothi* 2 annas, hemp 6 annas : average $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

8. The winter sowings commenced under very unfavourable auspices. The soil was hard and dry, and ploughing in many places was an impossibility. Somewhere it was possible, and seed was sown; in many places that seed did not germinate, or the young plants withered for want of moisture. On the December rains falling, a further area was sown; but these sowings were of no practical value; the plants never came to maturity, but were cut down and used as fodder.

The total area sown was about one-fourth of a normal *rabi* area. The outturn of the crops which were reaped (*i.e.*, after excluding the area in which seed did not germinate, or crops were used as fodder) was estimated as follows, the anna having the same representative value as in the last paragraph : sugarcane 6 annas, *arhar* 8 annas, wheat 7 annas, barley 8 annas, liuseed 12 annas, gram 9 annas, peas 9 annas : average $8\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

The total outturn was therefore probably not more than one-eighth of a normal crop.

9. Famine relief was going on the whole cold weather, and I now turn to discuss the special relief offered by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Before the operations of the Fund were started, there was no organized private charity in this district. Some of the old bankers and landowners carried on promiscuous charity and distributed grain doles once a day to all who came to beg at their doors. But they fixed a certain quantity of grain for every day, and with the advent of famine this quantity was reduced gradually in every case. The increased number of recipients also diminished the utility of these gifts as they dwindled to a handful or two for each individual. The middle classes had stopped all charity feeling the pinch of famine themselves, and in some cases were reluctant to undergo the nuisance of having a swarm of beggars round their houses. So that but for the Charitable Fund there was nothing left to the poor and destitute except the relief given by Government.

10. The District Local Committee consisted of the district Revenue officers' the Municipal Board of Banda, and the District Board. A few members were added afterwards. The first meeting was held on the 3rd March 1897, and the following office-bearers were elected : President, H. C. Ferrard Esq., C. S., Collector and Magistrate; Honorary Secretaries : (1) P. Madhava Rao J. Kher, B.A., Deputy Collector, Secretary of the District and Municipal Boards; (2) Munshi Mata Parshad, Mukhtár and *raís* and Assistant Secretary of the Banda Municipal Board; (3) Bábu Jadu Nath Chaudhri, Departmental Sub-Registrar; Honorary Treasurer Lála Kanhaiya Lal, Treasurer of the District Treasury.

Under the District Committee there were nine sub-committees for the following territorial divisions of the district :—

- (1) The Banda Municipal Board for the Banda city.
- (2) The Banda Local Board for the tahsil of Banda.
- (3) The Pailani ditto Pailani.

(4)	The Baberu Local Board for the tashil of Baberu.	
(5)	The Girwan	ditto Girwan.
(6)	The Badausa	ditto Badausa.
(7)	The Karwi	ditto Karwi.
(8)	The Kamasin	ditto Kamasin.
(9)	The Mau	ditto Mau.

The general control of the Fund was vested in the Collector as President, and the officers in charge of the parganas supervised the work of their Local Boards, while the Municipal Secretary did the same for the municipality. The accounts at headquarters were maintained and supervised by the Secretaries, and at tashils by the tahsildárs of the tashils.

At a meeting held in April 1897, Maulvi Muhammad Salim and Bábu Jadunath Chaudhri were appointed examiners of the accounts; but only the latter of these gentlemen actually checked the district accounts. The clerical staff paid from the Fund consisted of two clerks at headquarters and one clerk for each tashil on Rs. 10. An allowance of Rs. 5 per month was paid to the treasurer's gumashta for keeping accounts of the imprest of Rs. 1,000 kept with the treasurer.

A special sub-committee of the following eight gentlemen was constituted to distribute relief to the respectable poor of the city under object III of the Fund: (1) Pandit Madhava Rao J. Kher, Deputy Collector; (2) Munshi Mata Parshad, Mukhtár and ráis; (3) Lála Kanhaiya Lal, Treasurer; (4) Lála Ganga Parshad, Pleader; (5) Bábu Kunwar Sen, Government Pleader; (6) Chaudhri Beni Parshad, Honorary Magistrate; (7) Maulvi Manzur Ahmad, retired Tahsildár; and (8) Sheikh Wahid-ud-din, Mukhtár.

This was necessary in order to reach many impoverished persons of respectable family in the city who refused relief, except when given confidentially through some one or other of their friends. The members of this committee were not chosen on the principle of their being representatives of geographical divisions of the city, but on account of their general character for probity, their reputation, and their local influence. The success of this sub-committee was in a great measure due to its composition.

11. Generally speaking, the Charitable Fund money was distributed in this district through the same agency as that employed by Government in its famine relief operations. Milk, clothing, extra rations, and comforts in the poorhouses were given through the officers in charge of those institutions, and the accounts were maintained by them with the help of the clerical staff paid by the Fund. The poorhouses at Banda were independent of the tashil, and under the charge of Pandit Madhava Rao J. Kher, Deputy Collector. One extra clerk on Rs. 10 was allotted to these poorhouses from the Fund to keep the accounts, as the numbers here relieved were very large for a considerable time. Clothing was distributed through the pargana officers, tahsildárs, and their náibs to poor people relieved under sections 54 and 124 of the Famine Code.

Pecuniary aid to cultivators under object IV, on which the largest part of the Fund was spent, was given in accordance with lists prepared by the tahsildárs of the parganas, after personal inspection by themselves and the pargana officers and after approval by the Collector. In the city aid to artisans and others under object IV was given on lists prepared by the Secretaries and certain selected residents of the Municipality. Actual payments were in all cases made in the presence of the tahsildárs and members of the District or Municipal Board.

For the distribution of doles under object III the agency was chiefly non-official, though in close connection with the district officials. In the city it was carried out by the special sub-committee above referred to, and in the mufassil the distributors were members of the District Board. The doles were given monthly at the rate of Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per head per month. The members submitted their accounts weekly to the Secretary at headquarters and in the tashils to the tahsildárs. The tashil accounts were forwarded weekly to headquarters and then incorporated in the district

accounts of the Local Committee. Certain special cases were dealt with by the Collector confidentially in consultation with Secretary, and in some delicate cases the recipients would only accept money from Mr. Ferard personally.

12. Early in the month of February 1897 Rs. 600 were received from the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division for clothing. With this cloth was purchased at headquarters from petty weavers and *dhotis* and *kurtas* (or native shirts) were made. Some cloth was sent to those tahsils where there were poorhouses, viz., Karwi, Mau, Badausa, Pailani, and Baberu. The inmates had on account of the urgency of their need the first claim to this description of relief. *Dhotis* were also given to women relieved under sections 124 and 54 of the Famine Code. This sum was, however, sufficient to meet the worst cases only. On the 16th February the first remittance of Rs. 4,000 from the Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh; was received. This was spent chiefly in supplementing the Government dole to people relieved at home gratuitously. Rupees 100 were sent to each of the tahsils, and Rs. 450 were given to the Municipal Secretary, who divided it among the members according to the numbers in the circle of each. Besides these, the Collector, the pargana officers, the Assistant District Superintendent of Police, and Lieutenant Hay on special famine duty, received Rs. 100 to Rs. 500, according to requirements. The distribution was made generally by purchasing grain in the villages and giving it over to the distressed poor at the rate of from one to two seers per individual. A portion was also spent in the purchase of unrefined sugar, which was distributed among the children to their eminent satisfaction. This distribution was left entirely to the discretion of the officers concerned, who made it according to the best of their local knowledge. Some of the officers retained balances in their hands in order to give casual relief during their tours throughout the famine.

After this certain definite methods of relief were adopted. In the first place the Government ration in poorhouses was supplemented by the addition of two chhataks of bread from the Fund in addition to the Government subsistence dole. In every poorhouse a gang was formed of the most weakly of the inmates, and milk was provided for them. These arrangements were made in consultation with the Civil Surgeon. The Government dole to those receiving outdoor relief under sections 54 and 124, Famine Code, was also increased by the addition of one pice per day all round. This was a specially appreciated form of charity, as it gave the recipients some extra food over and above what was necessary to keep body and soul together. In the case of children milk was provided from the extra pice, and the allowance resulted in a noticeable improvement of the physical condition of many of the children. The extra rations in the poorhouses were continued till the poorhouses were finally closed; but latterly it was withheld as a preventive measure from those who returned to the poorhouses after having been once transferred to the relief works when their physical condition had improved. Milk was continued to the weakly gang which was scrutinized every week by the officer-in-charge, who made additions and alterations by removing those who had improved and taking on bad cases from among new admissions. Children under four got milk in all cases. This was still continued in the Banda and Karwi orphanages until orders to cease all expenditure had arrived. Unrefined sugar was also distributed with the evening meal.

The extra pice to people relieved gratuitously under Famine Code ceased from the 1st June 1897. It was allowed only to women with infants in arms. In the meantime the necessity for more clothing was becoming more and more apparent in the district. Officers on tour brought it to the Collector's notice. The Committee allotted Rs. 800; but it was quite inadequate, and an application was made to the Provincial Committee for a separate grant for clothing. The Provincial Committee sent Rs. 500 in March and Rs. 3,000 as a special grant in April. This grant was distributed in money to all the tahsils according to requirements. Cloth was again purchased from the local weavers, who were thus helped indirectly by employment. The Local Committee did not think any other method of relieving feasible under the

circumstances. Altogether Rs. 4,900 were spent upon clothing before the end of May, and though the clothing provided fell short of abundance, still it went a great way in meeting the worst cases.

13. In the month of May the Provincial Committee intimated that the monthly grant to this district was Rs. 17,000 only, for expenditure upon objects I and III of the Fund. The President of the Local Committee thereupon sketched out roughly the main heads of expenditure, and assigned the amounts to be devoted to each head. It was divided as follows:—

		Rs.	
		1,525	Extra rations in poor houses.
		170	Clothing in poorhouses.
		1,000	Milk to weak children on village relief.
Object I	...	...	...
		12,000	{ Banda city ... Rs. 1,900
			{ Eight tahsils ... „ 10,100
Object III	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	1,000	This includes pay of muharrirs, contingencies, &c.
Reserve	...	1,305	

I may note that the head “Miscellaneous” included several items of expenditure which in the classification of accounts would come under object I, such as limejuice. The reserve was kept for any special cases of distress that came to the notice of the Committee: and such cases were not few. Moreover, the amounts allotted under each head did not, and could not, be strictly adhered to. The expenditure rose and fell with the rise and fall of the numbers in the poorhouses. As the famine deepened in May and June, the sum of Rs. 12,000 under object III was found insufficient, and we had to fall back on the balances of past months. In the case of the city Rs. 1,900 did not prove sufficient, and had to be supplemented by appropriations from the reserve. As the reserve accumulated, it was distributed in the shape of special grants to the heads on which expenditure exceeded the estimate.

I may illustrate the system of special grants by one or two examples. Although the whole of this district was a specially distressed tract, still the distress was particularly acute on the plateau covering the greater part of the Karwi subdivision. Mr. Ferard in one of his visits to this tract noticed that it required special help, and Rs. 1,000 was immediately sent to the Subdivisional Officer of Karwi, who distributed it partly in cash and partly in grain to the aboriginals who inhabit the plateau. Two boxes of biscuits were at the same time sent there with one case of concentrated food. These were distributed through the zamindárs among those aboriginal Kols who had no scruples like others in accepting meat or food prepared in England. Their children greatly appreciated these gifts as was evident from the reports of the local officers. A similar grant of Rs. 1,350 was made for the Baberu pargana when Mr. Burkitt, the Pargana Officer, represented that the zamindárs and pattidárs required immediate help for subsistence. In the month of June a grant of Rs. 1,000 to each tahsil was made with a similar object, namely to assist the zamindárs who had nothing left once the outturn of the meagre *rabi* harvest had been exhausted. And lastly in the month of October 1897, certain villages in parganas Pailani and Baheru suffered badly from locusts, and grants of Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 5,000 respectively were made to the officers in charge of these parganas; but these amounts had not been wholly distributed when orders were received from the Provincial Committee to stop all expenditure from the 6th November. These orders were duly complied with, and the unexpended portion of the amount allotted for relief of those tracts was recalled. The reports published by authority of Government give a fair idea of the intensity of distress in this district. But those show only persons relieved under object I of the Fund. The total population of the district is 705,000 souls according to the census of 1891, and out of these 202,286 persons were in receipt of relief during the month of June 1897. The numbers in poorhouses were highest in the months of June and July. These were all helped with extra rations or milk and clothing from the Fund, and out of these no less than 2,447 children and weak adults were provided with milk. Thus the assistance given under object I would have been in itself sufficient to justify the existence of the Fund; but it represents only a minor portion of the work accomplished.

14. The expenditure under object III went exclusively to relieve those persons who could not receive aid from Government. They were too proud to go to a poorhouse or relief work, and in many cases even to make any mention of the sufferings they were undergoing. But they were at the same time too poor to be able to tide over the period of scarcity and high prices without extraneous help. These included ladies and gentlemen of high families but broken fortunes; legal practitioners whose practice was at an end owing to the temporary cessation of costly litigation, Brahman priests deprived of the usually munificent charity of the landholding and banking classes, the habitual donors of which found themselves in such straitened circumstances as to have to curtail all expenditure, except that necessary for the maintenance of themselves and their immediate relations; the "poor relations" of many respectable persons of the writer class who, though in years of plenty they felt no extra burden in maintaining their relations, could hardly afford to support their families in this season of high prices; and the better class of tradespeople, such as tailors, artisans, dyers, and who, earning their bread from the comforts of the masses in season of ordinary prosperity, had no work when comfort gave way to absolute necessity. Very large numbers of such sufferers owe much to the Charitable Fund, in some cases even their own lives and those of their wives and children. It is impossible to say what would have happened to these classes if the Fund had not been available for their succour. Many would have been forced in defiance of social custom to seek relief in Government institutions, others have existed with insufficient nourishment; but those of highest social station and proudest antecedents would undoubtedly have succumbed to the distress. In every case, however terminated, it would have meant a period of long, acute, and patient suffering followed in many cases by physical ruin and social degradation. All this has been happily averted. I am aware of one or two instances in the city in which gently-nurtured ladies of some high family or representatives of formerly wealthy landholding families refused for months to accept any aid, and finally took it only when given most secretly (may the pious fraud be forgiven!) as a nominal loan to be repaid at will. Mr. Ferard kept a watchful eye on such cases, and did his best to help them either personally or through his subordinates as suited each case best. In the mufassil where the recipients under object III were mostly respectable landholders, big farmers, and *ex*-proprietors, there was no such insistence on secrecy in obtaining relief, because they had the idea that all relief came from their "*má báp*" Government and from no other quarter. Though the relief was not looked upon in these quarters as charity, but as a politic expenditure by Government, they still wished themselves to be differentiated from the ordinary persons relieved under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code. The pargana officers and tahsildárs made out lists of such persons and gave them relief monthly with their own hands or through náib tahsildárs—monthly and not weekly. This distinction in the method of distribution was sufficient to gratify their simple pride of position and family. This mode of relief developed gradually. In March the numbers relieved were only 167. While in July and August they rose to 4,878. The total expenditure under object III amounted to Rs. 69,205-8-9 during the seven and-a-half months ending the 31st October 1897, which means an average expenditure of Rs. 9,222 and a relief to 30,266 people per month. This number is more by 700 than the total population of the city of Banda.

15. By far the largest expenditure was under object IV, and that, too, chiefly in assistance by provision of cattle and seed-grain to agriculturists. The original grant made to this district was Rs. 3,59,000; but Mr. Ferard, with his intimate knowledge of the district and its circumstances, held this amount quite inadequate in spite of its being larger than that made to any other district. It was, however, supplemented first by a transfer of Rs. 20,000 from Agra district and again by a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 from the Provincial Committee upon the representation of Mr. Ferard. This made up a total of Rs. 4,79,000.

Something more was wanted for special help to the most distressed tracts in the district, viz., the rice-growing plateau and the *kans*-infested areas. The price of rice seed had gone up enormously, and the soil overgrown by the weed *kans* required special labour to bring it under cultivation. As the rains came on, yet another urgent need became apparent. The heavy rains of 1893-94 washed down enormous numbers of houses, and as the famine set in immediately after that the inhabitants had no resources to execute repairs. For these three special objects a grant of Rs. 20,000 each was applied for and given, thus bringing up the total to Rs. 5,39,000.

The distribution of such an enormous amount of money required every energy on the part of the local officers. The Collector issued confidential instructions to all the pargana officers and tahsildars to select by their own personal knowledge all persons who, in their struggle with the famine, had lost the wherewithal to resume their ordinary avocations at its close. Village lists were prepared by these officers and submitted for the Collector's approval. After sanction dates were fixed for the recipients to attend at the tahsil and there take payment in person before the tahsildar. The recipients were duly identified by the patwaris and circle officers and their signatures or marks affixed in token of acknowledgment. Members of the District Board and pargana officers were also present when possible. The first allotment of Rs. 3,59,000 was distributed between the 25th May and 10th June 1897 in order that the people might purchase cattle and make other preparations for cultivation as soon as the rains set in by the 15th June. It was a very busy fortnight throughout the district. Each tahsil was thronged with people from every village. They sat there from early in the morning till sun-down and distribution work went on incessantly throughout the day. It is an extremely difficult matter to realize the feelings to which this distribution of "free *takavi*" gave rise in the minds of the people, and even if realized those feelings are still more difficult to describe. It must be remembered that never within the memory of the proverbial oldest inhabitants had any free grants been given in Bundelkhand for the purpose of re-establishing impoverished cultivators. *Takavi* secured by the liability of sureties they knew, repayable advances from Government for purpose of land improvement they had received, and they remembered, probably with no little discomfort, the inevitable and recurring instalments which had been collected from them on account. But unsecured and unrepayable advances passed their comprehension. In some cases it was at first difficult to induce the least educated to accept the allotment. They suspected some sinister motive and feared to bind themselves by acceptance to some dreadful fulfilment. Some thought, as a portion of the people always do when a new measure is taken, that the distribution had for its object forcible conversion; others saw in it a binding over of the recipients to their equivalent of satanic influences; others again looked upon it as the price of liberty, and believed acceptance would really be in transportation across the "black water." These doubts, however, very soon gave way to more sensible ideas. I do not think that many of the people actually realized that the distribution represented the sympathetic charity of the Anglo-Saxon race. They did, however, in very many cases connect it in some manner with the Queen-Empress; not a few of them imagined that the Jubilee rejoicings and the distributions of money for plough-cattle and seed were part and parcel of some great celebration of a great event, and I have no doubt that in a majority of cases they thought that the present came from Government and was instigated by the Queen.

As to gratitude it is difficult to form an idea. At the time astonishment and eagerness to accept probably left little room for other feelings; but from inquiries made during my recent tour round the district, I have every reason to believe that this unique distribution has formed an epoch in the present generation of the district, and that the present year will be remembered, not so much as the year of the great famine, as that of the great relief. Many who had left their houses and gone on to the relief works with no hope in their breasts of ever being able to return, or if able to

return, of again cultivating their little ancestral holding came hurrying back on hearing of this extraordinary and inexplicable distribution and found themselves given a fresh start in life—a start which, providentially seconded by a magnificent crop to commence with, bids fair to result in their attaining a higher standard of prosperity than they had reached before the famine.

The first distribution covered only the worst cases, and individually they got only small sums ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25 according to their former status and the area of the lands they held. Purchase of cattle and seed for the *kharif* harvest were the chief objects at the time. The Rs. 20,000 received from Agra was also applied to the same purpose. It was distributed to such people as had either been absent when the original lists were prepared or were left out by oversight or otherwise. The number of these was very small. The total amount distributed for purchase of cattle and *kharif* seed was Rs. 3,66,750 only.

Rupees 3,000 were distributed in the city in aid to artisans and weavers to resume their professions. Their lists were prepared in consultation with some prominent business men of the city.

16. The rains came in time, and the people were ready to resume their work. Ploughing operations began at once and *kharif* sowings commenced. There was, however, a break of a fortnight about the end of June, which was the cause of the most intense anxiety; but in the second week in July renewed rainfall again restored confidence in the hearts of the people. This break lasted from 25th June to 7th July 1897, and did no harm. A very large area was sown with *kharif*; the object of the people being to obtain food-grains as soon as they could. The smaller millets were widely sown as they reach maturity earliest. The normal *kharif* area of the district is 468,277 acres, and in spite of the famine this year as many as 468,946 acres were sown.

The rainfall in July being seasonable, the *kharif* sowings germinated well and they required weeding. As the relief works were in course of being closed, agriculturists were hard up for food while employed on preparation and weeding of their fields. They had spent part of the money given at the first distribution on food, but that was now exhausted. The Provincial Committee just then sent a timely assignment of Rs. 1,00,000 more. Out of this Rs. 68,000 was at once sent out for distribution on the 3rd August 1897. This was distributed upon a different principle. The gifts were made having regard to the expense of weeding and the subsistence required in the case of each individual cultivator's field and family. The method of distribution was the same. The people recognised that Government was bent not only on giving them a fresh start, but on keeping them till they could keep themselves. A feeling of confidence was engendered. The Indian peasant is never very effusive in his expression of gratitude; but the second distribution was received with none of the doubts and suspicions attendant on the first, and hopes of a bumper harvest near at hand, now that he could weed his field and had just sufficient means to keep himself and his family alive, allowed him time to reflect on the meaning, and he undoubtedly realized to a large extent the generosity which had prompted it. Weeding operations gave employment to many of the poor labourers who had hitherto been on the relief works. The relief works had been closed judiciously and the labourers naturally returned to their native places ready to help the cultivator in his fields. Still for the labourers it was a difficult period to tide over. High prices brought them less grain for the scanty pice they could earn. The cultivators on the other hand employed as few labourers as possible and paid them as poorly as they could. Many of the labouring class therefore flocked to the poorhouses in July instead of going to their villages. The population of the poorhouses did not decrease because though many had returned to their homes, there came as many and even more who had nothing to return home for. Throughout the month of August, therefore, distribution on a small or large scale was going on in the district as the need of individuals, communities and villages came to the notice of the authorities through local inspection and reports. Rs. 8,500 was sent in small lots and thus the total amount expended in that month for weeding and subsistence came up to Rs. 76,500.

With the advent of September the early millets had been reaped in a few places and afforded some relief. But the time had come for *rabi* sowings. Fields had to be prepared with greater care and labour for the valuable spring crops, such as wheat and gram. High prices and depletion of stocks rendered expenditure on seed extremely heavy. The quantity of seed required for a *rabi* field is larger than that for *kharif*. For instance if an acre of *kharif* could be sown with one maund of grain, an acre of *rabi* would require four maunds. Rs. 40,000 for the two specially distressed tracts were already in hand, because in making the distributions in July and August these tracts had already had that amount allotted to them. So in September a third large distribution was made for seed for the spring crops. The total amount of this was Rs. 56,500 only.

Out of these total allotments of Rs. 4,99,750, Rs. 4,86,457-8-0 were spent exclusively in gifts to agriculturists, and Rs. 11,239-8-0 in aiding workmen of other trades to purchase materials. Rs. 3,250 were also spent on the latter object in Banda city, which makes up the amount shown under object IVA (ii) (c) in Form B, showing the details of relief operations which has been submitted to you. The other professions aided were mostly potters, cobblers, and dyers in the mufassil and petty shopkeepers, tailors, brokers, and vegetable-sellers in the city.

17. The special grant for aid to people in repairing and rebuilding their houses was apportioned between the different subdivisions of the district only in the middle of October, when it would be likely to be used for the purpose for which it was intended. Houses are generally repaired in Bundelkhand after the Dasahra festival, when the rains usually cease, about the middle of October. The Dewali festival of illuminations falls 20 days after that, and during these 20 days houses are repaired and whitewashed to bring the illuminations into relief. This grant of Rs. 20,000 could only be partly distributed before orders arrived from the Provincial Committee to stop all expenditure from the 6th of November, which was done. A large part remained undistributed. The system of distribution was exactly the same as that adopted for aid to cultivators. The gifts were made upon a due consideration of the style and dimensions of houses, and the necessity and pecuniary ability of the owners to rebuild or repair them. Individually the grants varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.

18. The gifts in kind consisted firstly, of two bales of female clothing sent from England by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Mrs. Hauser. The bale sent by Mrs. Hauser arrived here in June. It was distributed entirely in the city as the cloth was very good and the garments fitted to be worn by respectable ladies only, who resided entirely in the city. The second bale from the Marchioness of Dufferin was received a month later. Out of this clothing was sent to all the tahsils according to requirements. The gifts were highly valued by the respectable classes, and the cloth was so fine and beautiful that many who could preferred to keep it for purposes of show rather than bring it into daily use. Separate reports have been sent to the Provincial Committee on the distribution of these gifts, and in the case of the latter a report was submitted for the perusal of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor as desired by the Private Secretary. The 1,000 jerseys received from the Cawnpore Woollen Mills Company by order of the Provincial Committee were all distributed first in the poorhouses and then to people getting relief at home. Out of the 1,500 bolts received through the same agency, native shirts or *kurtas* were made and distributed similarly. Mrs. Forbes, wife of the District and Sessions Judge, Mr. G. F. G. Forbes, C.S., suggested this expedient for utilizing the bolts which would otherwise have been useless, and she also very kindly undertook to supervise their preparation, seeing that the tailors did their work, and keeping the accounts of work done.

Three boxes of biscuits and a box of concentrated food (said to contain meat) were spent wholly in feeding the children of the aboriginal Kols of the Karwi subdivision. These could not be used in poorhouses lest a rumour should spread that admission to poorhouses entailed loss of caste or apostasy. Two and-a-half tins of

Mellin's Food and three tins of Swiss milk were, however, utilized entirely in poor-houses, in feeding the sick in hospital and young children, who profited immensely by that nutriment. Lastly, a bale of 800 *dhotis* was received in October and is under distribution.

These gifts by themselves added not a little to the comforts of people relieved by Government; and they were greatly appreciated, especially by children.

19. The distress in the district was very acute, and penetrated even among the better classes. Famine succeeded a succession of indifferent and latterly positively unfavourable seasons. Local subscriptions were therefore impossible and were not asked for, because those who usually subscribe had obviously not the means to do so. It was only in the month of August, when there had been a good and timely rainfall, that prospects brightened and credit revived. A meeting of the District Local Committee was accordingly held on the 2nd August 1897, and a subscription list was circulated. Subscriptions came in freely, considering the hardness of the times. Thakurdin Pathak, Rai Bahadur, of Naraini, and Chandidin Dube of Khuudeh, headed the list with Rs. 300 and 200 respectively. Others contributed according to their means. The total local subscriptions amounted to Rs. 2,676 up to the 31st October. These were all meant for this district, and were thus at the disposal of the District Committee. According to the orders of the Central Committee, these were credited to the general account of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund and formed part of the balances of the Fund.

Local subscriptions.

20. Pandit Brahma Shankar Misra, M.A., the officer appointed by the Provincial Committee in consultation with the Lieutenant-Governor under orders of the Central Committee dated 25th September 1897, examined the accounts of the district early in the month of October, and pronounced them to be kept with neatness and regularity.

21. Government poorhouses in this district were closed from the 15th October and with them stopped all the aid given by the Charitable Fund. The orphanages at Karwi and Banda only remained, and here milk was continued till the orders to stop all expenditure came. Relief under object III ceased from the same date. The tahsíl muharrirs were dismissed as soon as complete accounts came in from tahsils. There are only two clerks now at headquarters who are auditing the accounts and checking the distribution lists received from tahsils. The records of the Fund have been kept quite separate in the same manner as the accounts, and they will be deposited safely when orders arrive. These clerks will have no work after the 31st December, when they will be dismissed. The balances have all come in and been sent to the Provincial Committee according to their orders. A small sum has been reserved to pay the salary of the clerks and contingencies.

Winding up.

22. The 13 *khichri khana*s or kitchens for children, started in the Karwi sub-division in July and maintained up to 30th September, deserve mention as a special form of relief. Mr Ferard had noticed that the children in the Karwi sub-division were growing thinner in spite of the grants made for their comforts. So with the permission of Government these institutions were started. The accounts were prepared weekly like those in poorhouses. Of the total expenditure Government contributed the amount allowed under section 54, Famine Code, and the rest was borne by the Fund. These kitchens did a great deal to nourish children who would otherwise have remained weak at the end of famine and undoubtedly saved many infants' lives. The total cost of these kitchens amounted to Rs. 1,380-0-4, and the highest number of children relieved in one day was 27 children. These costs and units are included in Form B under object I(c) (iii).

23. In conclusion I have now only to mention the services rendered by individuals and sub-committees. The work of the nine local sub-committees deserves all praise. The members gave their aid with willing cheerfulness and often at considerable personal trouble.

At headquarters Pandit Madhava Rao Jayaram Kher, Munshi Mata Parshad, and Babu Jadunath Chandhri were indefatigable. The first-named had the work of the Famine Fund accounts in addition to his ordinary duties, which were themselves particularly heavy on account of the famine. He worked throughout with energy and zeal, and the successful administration of the Fund money has been largely due to his devotion. Munshi Mata Parshad also expended a large amount of time and trouble on the Fund, and was always ready with valuable advice when consulted and to undertake arduous duties when requested to do so. I owe a personal debt of gratitude to him for his kindness in placing his time and local knowledge at my disposal in famine relief generally and the distribution of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund money in particular. Babu Jadunath Chaudhri was of the greatest use also, especially in checking and supervising the keeping of the accounts. To these three gentlemen the gratitude of the thousands who have been relieved will doubtless be a recompense for the labour they have undergone so willingly.

Of the remainder of the Committee it must suffice to record that they were one and all animated with a desire to render all the help which was in their power. They had the confidence of the citizens of the town, and of the ryots of the mufassil, and that confidence was in no way misplaced. To them I owe personal thanks for aid so constantly demanded and willingly given.

24. I cannot close this report without conveying to the Provincial Committee the obligations under which the district lies to it for the generous sympathy so consistently extended to it in its troubles, and for the unfailing courtesy with which the requests of my predecessor and myself for further grants were always met. The position of a beggar is a difficult one, especially when the person from whom aid is solicited is overwhelmed with rival claims from many quarters, all seemingly deserving. When the aid is grudgingly granted or curtly refused, that position becomes exceedingly unpleasant. It is, however, a matter for thankful congratulation on my part that Banda importunity has never been met with the want of consideration which it no doubt frequently deserved; but on the contrary when aid was refused the regret appeared to be with the donor rather than with the solicitor of the aid.

In conclusion I would say that the most gratifying of all results visible in this district of the generosity of the Anglo-Saxon nations of the world, is a display of gratitude which appears to be increasing as the recipients of that generosity have time to realize it, and a return to normal prosperity as rapid as it was unprecedented. In my late tour throughout the district, which has undergone, as has been stated above, a cycle of unfavourable years culminating in two years of the most intense famine, I noticed that the average physical condition of the labouring and agricultural classes was just as satisfactory as it was when I first came to this district in the end of 1893, and signs of famine are now practically non-existent except in the miles of raised roadways, the hundreds of newly-excavated tanks and the thousands of huts still standing where six months ago the struggle was going on. It may be that in the providence of the Almighty, the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has helped to weld together the empire by chains stronger than those which bound it before: and if this is indeed the result, then it should form an ample reward both to those who so generously subscribed their money and to those who unrequited administered its distribution.

J. H. SIMPSON, C.S.

18. HAMIRPUR.

Collector's letter no. 65,
dated 16th December 1897
Receipt no. 1211.

I HAVE the honor to submit a report on the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in this district. They closed practically at the end of October and the few items of expenditure incurred early in November has been included in this report and in the statements appended of expenditure up to 31st October. For purposes of check a separate memorandum of such items is appended.

2. There has been acute distress in the whole area of the district, 2,282 square miles, with a population of 513,720. There are no large towns in the district, and the great bulk of the inhabitants are agriculturists. There is much good soil, but

owing to the nature and circumstances of it, as much as to any lack of energy on the part of the cultivators, there is very little irrigation, and consequently any failure of rain is severely felt. The people are not as industrious as their neighbours in the Doab, and are besides handicapped by the number of wild animals and the ubiquity of *kans* grass which make cultivation difficult. Wheat, gram, and linseed are the principal *rabi*, and *juar*, cotton, and *til* the principal *kharif* crops. *Mahua* is an important auxiliary food, and the large area of uncultivated land yields many wild fruits to eke out the food supply. There is much grazing land and many head of cattle are exported yearly to distant districts.

3. The really bad seasons began in 1894, when rust injured the wheat crop. The excessive rains of 1894 did considerable damage to the *kharif*, and in 1895 the whole of the linseed crop and half the wheat was lost owing to rust. In 1895 the rains closed early and the *kharif* crop was moderate: the *rabi* area was contracted, and as there were no winter rains the *rabi* crop of 1896 failed badly. Famine relief operations were commenced in February and the numbers on relief rose to 50,000 at the end of May. The rains were good up to August, and the closing of relief measures appeared at hand when the early cessation of the rains again brought distress. Both *kharif* (1896) and *rabi* (1897) harvests were failures, and the area under the latter was much contracted. The outturn in annas of the principal crops was as follows:—

<i>Kharif.</i>		<i>Annas.</i>		<i>Rabi.</i>		<i>Annas.</i>	
<i>Juar</i>	6	Wheat	...	9	Area small.
Cotton	7	Gram	...	7	
<i>Bajra</i>	8	Barley	...	11	Ditto.
<i>Til</i>	6				

Relief works were opened again in October, and continued till July. Gratuitous relief was continued till the end of October 1897.

4. At the end of 1896 some subscriptions were locally collected for the purpose of providing clothing for people in poorhouses, and steps were taken to initiate charitable relief on a larger scale. On 2nd January 1897 a committee was formed, consisting of the following:—

Mr. H. M. R. Hopkins, Officiating Collector	<i>Chairman.</i>
Mr. H. S. Rix, Officiating Joint Magistrate	<i>Secretary</i> <i>and</i> <i>Treasurer.</i>
Saiyid Muhammad Ali, Joint Magistrate	} <i>Members.</i>
Munshi Muhammad Azim Khan, Deputy Collector	...	...
Mr. W. Hegan, Civil Surgeon	...	...
Tahsildars of the five tahsils and leading District Board Members,			
The Munsif of Hamirpur was subsequently added to the Committee,			

On my return from short leave in February 1897, I was elected Chairman in place of Mr. Hopkins. Sub-committees were formed for the various tahsils. The functions of the committees were consultative. Beyond the provision of clothing to persons in poorhouses little was done till the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Central Committee was formed, when the local body became the local committee of the Fund.

5. The elaborate official agency existing for the administration of Government relief was utilized for the distribution of charitable relief. It will be seen how non-officials aided in the one as in the other.

6. Extra food and comforts to children in poorhouses was distributed by the managers of those institutions under the supervision of superior officers. The plan adopted was to feed the children on a generous scale laid down by the Civil Surgeon and to charge to the Fund the cost of their food, so far as it exceeded that of the bare subsistence ration allowed by Government. Children on gratuitous relief in villages received one pice each daily from the Fund. Gratuitous Government relief in villages was distributed in this district by selected native gentlemen, who undertook this

work in their own and adjoining villages, rendering accounts weekly on which the imprests given to them were recouped. The number of such distributors was one hundred. These gentlemen also undertook the distribution of pice to children from the Charitable Relief Fund, furnishing accounts and keeping registers as in the case of Government money. Here, as in poorhouses, it was considered that adults, children over 12, and babies in arms were sufficiently provided for by the Government allowances both on and off relief works: it was the children not in arms and under 12 whom, being provided with a bare subsistence by Government, it was thought desirable to provide with fuller meals by the aid of the Fund.

7. The dieting of a few orphans in one of the poorhouses was for a short time only charged to the Fund.

8. Allowances under object III were distributed as follows: lists of the persons selected by officers not lower in standing than Naib Tahsildárs and revised from time to time by superior officers were given to Circle Officers already employed on supervising the distribution of Government relief. There were 26 Circle Officers in this district. Each person on the lists received a ticket on which the monthly payments to him were entered. The Circle Officer kept a daily account of his expenditure in duplicate, showing the persons to whom payments were made and the amounts paid out of the imprest with which he was provided. From time to time he sent in one copy of his account to the tahsil and his imprest was recouped. The Circle Officers also maintained a ledger, showing the persons in receipt of allowances in each village, with a column for each month showing the date and amount paid in that month against the name of each person. A similar ledger was kept up at the tahsil, it being written up from the daily cash accounts received from Circle Officers. It was thus a simple matter to check both the regularity and the fact of payments to individuals and to check the daily cash accounts with them.

9. The foregoing paragraphs show the administration of periodical relief from the Fund. Children on relief works, except for a short time when works were closing and arrangements were made for feeding children on them in kitchens, kept in good condition on the food they received from the family cooking-pot. Those on gratuitous relief and in poorhouses received aid from the Fund, being deprived in either case of any hope of aid from their elders. Nor was the Fund called upon to help the sick and destitute persons unfit for one reason or another to work. The responsibility of keeping these alive was accepted by Government. But the Fund was most usefully employed in assisting respectable persons who, though destitute and not physically incapacitated for work, would never have supported the shame of going to a relief work. It was a pleasure to occasionally take respectable persons from a relief work where they were toiling in obvious misery and by sending them to their villages to receive allowances from the Fund to deliver them from disgrace, as they reasonably, considering the customs of the country, thought it.

10. I would explain that the Fund was not utilized to give employment at home to spinners, weavers, and the like. This form of relief have been carried on from Government funds with the assistance of non-officials from early in 1896, and existing arrangements were continued. Thus no classes needing relief were overlooked and the Fund and Government relief kept in close touch with each other without overlapping.

11. In the selection of persons for assistance under object IV of the Fund an immense amount of labour was entailed. The two Joint Magistrates, Sheikh Muhammad Ali and Mr. Rix, Captain Edwards of the 18th Bengal Infantry and two Deputy Collectors, dividing the work with the Tahsildárs, examined into the needs of each village travelling about for this purpose in tents throughout May and the greater part of June. Rough lists of poor cultivators prepared by patwáris were used as something to start with; but care was taken to consider the cases of any who came up whose names were not on the lists. Indeed no officer thought of using

a patwari's list as more than a starting-point. Inquiry was then made into the relative needs of the various applicants in the matter of plough-cattle and money to keep themselves and their labourers. Each person selected for help was then given an order in a printed form payable at the tahsil and days were fixed for payments at the tahsils: these payments being always made in the presence of a tahsildar or superior officer. This procedure was repeated when a second allotment was received during the rains for plough-cattle and labourers' wages, and again later on when half a lakh of rupees was distributed for the purchase of *rabi* seed.

12. The district allotments under objects III and IV had in the first instance been divided among the charges of the various subdivisional officers by the Local Committee of the Fund.

13. Clothing was distributed by Sub divisional Officers and Tahsildars on tour.

14. Having described the method and agency of distribution of each kind of relief, little remains now to be added to the information given in the Statements herewith. With the exception of the provision of clothing on a small scale to inmates of poorhouses which had been proceeding earlier, the operations of the Fund commenced in this district with the receipt of Rs. 3,000 from the Provincial Committee on 9th February. From March the monthly allowance from the Provincial Committee for food relief was raised to Rs. 3,000, of which it was reckoned that Rs. 2,000 would be expended under object I and Rs. 6,000 under object III. The instructions in regard to the latter item were that it should be utilized for people who were really prevented by a sense of shame and not by laziness from coming to relief works. Lists of persons to be assisted naturally took some little time to prepare; but by the end of March there were 4,112 names on them. The funds which had accumulated in the hands of the Committee during the preparation of the lists were used in temporarily extending them in the months of severest pressure, viz. April, May, and June. On 31st May there were 9,225 names on the lists, but by 15th July this had been reduced to 4,641, which number was not very greatly exceeded afterwards. Allowances were made at rates varying from Rs. 0-7-6 per month for children in arms to Rs. 2-5-0 per month to adults wholly dependent on the Fund for support. Lesser allowances were made to those who had something wherewith to eke them out. This form of relief continued till the end of October.

15. The distribution of additional relief under object I has been described above, and the statements show the extent of it. The Mellin's and Triticene Food received from Calcutta were used for the children and sick in the poor-houses, and were of great assistance in dealing with cases of emaciation. The Tritikola biscuits were a treat for the children in the Government orphanage.

16. The following clothing was received in addition to grants of money for the purchase of clothing :—

					Rs.	
(1) Belts	1,000	} From the Provincial Committee.
(2) Jerseys	...	...	...	...	300
(3) Blankets	...	...	...	...	550
(4) Dhotis	...	...	...	...	1,000
(5) Skirts	574	} From the Central Committee and from Lady Dufferin.
(6) Chaddars	...	...	...	...	600
(7) Flannelette skirts, &c.	...	...	...	...	78

All these articles were gratefully appreciated, and especially the gifts of women's clothing received from England. I must not omit to mention the useful gift of 260 bodices worked by the ladies of the family of Sayid Abul Husain, Tahsildar of Rath and now Officiating Deputy Collector.

17. Under object IV it was finally decided to expend Rs. 1,60,000 out of the two lakhs allotted to this district on grants for purchase of cattle and subsistence of cultivators and their labourers. The distribution was commenced in May and was nearly half completed in that month; it was practically completed by 15th June, but only by means of the most strenuous exertions on the part of the officers employed in it. Rupees 3,280 was spent on gifts to artisans and Rs. 2,624 on assisting 257 persons

whose houses had been destroyed by fire. The average amount given for the purchase of a bullock was about Rs. 10. Gifts for other purposes naturally varied considerably in amount. Great care was taken that persons who deserved assistance under object IV should not lose it by being away at relief works at the time selections were made. They were diligently enquired for, and when necessary, sent for.

18. A second distribution of Rs. 20,000 for similar purposes was made in August from a supplementary grant received from the Provincial Committee. Finally in September lists were prepared of people to be assisted with gifts of seed for the *rabi*. For this purpose there was available Rs. 40,000 out of the original allotment of two lakhs, besides Rs. 10,000 received from the Provincial Committee at the end of July. Payments were made early in October to be in good time for the sowings. It was an instruction that gifts under this head should be between Rs. 8 and Rs. 15 each.

19. The only item of miscellaneous expenditure which requires comment is that of Rs. 106 for the purchase of cinchona febrifuge. This was made necessary by the great prevalence of fever, and the febrifuge was widely distributed with most beneficial results, and was generally appreciated.

20. The large closing balance of Rs. 6,735, which under your directions has been remitted to you, had been kept with your approval for expenditure on clothing and food relief in the cold weather. I am sure the expenditure would be most useful after the *khari* harvest; but the balance has been recalled, and there is no more to be said about it. Government relief finally closed in October with valedictory doles, as was also the case in relief from the Fund. The local Committee dissolved itself on 30th November.

21. In conclusion I need only say that the Fund has been of inestimable value in this district. It is not too much to say that it has saved thousands of homes from being broken up and thousands of people from ruin. It has prevented an immense amount of anguish which must have otherwise been suffered by respectable people compelled to go to poorhouses or relief works.

H. G. Warburton, C.S.

19.—ALLAHABAD.

Enclosure to Collector's
letter no. 1036, dated ^{25th}/_{26th}
November 1897.
[Receipt no. 1114.]

THE district of Allahabad, which is 74 miles long from east to west and 64 miles from north to south, has an area of 2,852 square miles, or about 1,805,938 acres of land. The district depends for its harvests almost entirely on the monsoon and winter rains.

2. The population of the district according to the census of 1891 is 1,548,737, of whom more than half, *i.e.*, 906,549, have no other occupation than agriculture, and their existence depends on the character of the harvests.

3. Owing to the failure of the rains in September and October 1896, preceded as it was by a succession of bad harvests, famine became general throughout the district, though the tracts most affected were the trans-Jumna and Doába tahsils. In consequence of the failure of the monsoon but a very limited area was sown with *rabi*, and as the winter rains also were absent or insufficient the *rabi* crop, on which people were dependent to keep them alive till the ensuing monsoon, was a failure, and the already existing famine was intensified.

4. To give some idea of the extent of the distress caused by want of sufficient rain for sowing, I would point out that only about 41 per cent. of the normal area could be sown with *rabi*. In the trans-Jumna tahsils the area sown was only one-fourth of the normal area, and it, too, suffered severely from the lack of winter rains and the almost total absence of means of irrigation. Some good, no doubt, was done by the rain which fell during December 1896 and January 1897, but much damage

was done by the strong westerly winds which prevailed throughout February 1897. The following table compares the outturn of the principal crops during the year with those of the preceding one, which in itself was one of inferior harvests:—

Name of crop.						1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>Kharif crops.</i>							
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	12 annas.	4 annas.
Maize	...	...	...	...	...	11 do.	10 do.
Juár	...	...	...	...	...	13 do.	4 do.
Bájra	...	...	...	...	...	11 do.	4 do.
Urd, mung	...	...	...	...	...	11 do.	2 do.
Sáwan	...	...	...	...	...	14 do.	7 do.
Kakun	...	...	...	...	...	13 do.	7 do.
Makra	...	...	...	...	...	16 do.	7 do.
Til	...	...	...	...	...	10 do.	7 do.
<i>Rabi crops.</i>							
Sngarcano...	...	...	...	...	...	14 annas.	8 annas.
Arhar	...	...	...	...	...	17 do.	7 do.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	12 do.	11 do.
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	12 do.	10 do.
Peas and gram	...	...	...	...	...	13 do.	7 do.
Masur	...	...	...	...	...	10 do.	5 do.
Linseed	...	...	...	...	...	8 do.	5 do.
Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	14 do.	6 do.

5. To add to the miseries of the famine-stricken people, there was practically no mango crop, but *mahua* flowers and fruit, of which there was fortunately an abundant yield, were for some time the means of subsistence of a large number of people in this district.

6. In consequence of the failure of the harvests prices of food grains, which had been for a long time ruling very high, had by October 1896 risen to rates obtaining during periods of intense famine. The subjoined table compares the prices obtaining in 1895-96 and 1896-97:—

Grains.					Rate per rupee.				Decrease.	
					1895-96.		1896-97.			
					Srs.	c.	Srs.	c.	Srs.	c.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	11	7	8	2	3	5
Barley	...	...	...	...	14	13	9	9	5	4
Rice, first quality	...	...	...	...	7	4	5	7	1	13
Do. common	...	...	...	...	11	15	7	12	4	3
Juár	...	...	...	...	15	15	9	6	6	9
Bájra	...	...	...	...	12	5	7	12	5	3
Makra	...	...	...	...	12	8	11	0	1	8
Kakun	...	...	...	...	12	12½	7	15	4	13½
Gram	...	...	...	...	15	12	8	14	6	14
Maize	...	...	...	...	17	12	10	2	7	10
Arnar (dál)	...	...	...	...	12	6	7	3	5	3

7. And as a consequent result by the end of May some 336,897 persons were in receipt of relief in one form or another, which is less than one-fourth but more than one-fifth of the entire population.

8. In every district there is a large number of people who by reason of their family status and social customs are unwilling to go on to relief works or to take shelter in poorhouses. To provide relief for such persons of respectable position a meeting was held on the 18th November 1896 in the Mayo Hall, and members were appointed to raise subscriptions and distribute charity to the most deserving and needy* "sharifs" of the city. By the middle of February the subscriptions raised locally had reached the figure of Rs. 20,512-7-9. The district was divided into 23 relief circles, in which relief was distributed through the circle officers, náib tahsildárs, tahsildárs, Deputy Collectors in charge of tahsils, and the Military officers on

* i.e. gentle folk.

duty in connection with famine relief operations; but in order to prevent Government and Charity Fund reliefs from overlapping each other, and on the other hand to secure that both systems should maintain close touch with each other, the following principles were kept in view.

9. Government relief was freely given where deemed necessary within the principles defined in the Famine Code, but beyond that it was the benevolent part of the Charity Fund to help all those who could not expect relief from Government. For instance it is not ordinarily the function of Government to give relief at home to any able-bodied person simply on the ground that he considers himself too respectable to go to relief works, though there may be, and in fact are, thousands of such persons in need of relief. Again Government could not undertake to supply clothes to all the needy, or to provide medical comforts for all the sick, though it kept up hospitals where medicine was dispensed and food was given according to fixed rates.

10. In the city relief from the Charity Fund was administered entirely through private agency, *i.e.*, through Honorary Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, vakils, &c. Between eight and nine thousand persons were relieved every month from the funds, composed of local subscriptions, supplemented by the monthly donation of Rs. 5,000 granted by the Local Government, and of Rs. 6,000 from the Charity Fund money placed at my disposal every month. The remainder and the bulk of the money sent by the Provincial Committee was devoted to various other useful objects of the Fund, the details of which are shown in the Statements A and B and explained below.

11. *Object I.*—The expenditure under this head from the Fund money has been incurred wholly in supplementing Government relief. Clothing received from England and from the Provincial Committee has been distributed to 941 persons standing most in need of it: and other clothing and blankets, worth Rs. 3,423-2-6, were also purchased and distributed to persons on gratuitous relief, who stood greatly in need of them. A number of boxes of biscuits, Mellin's Food and Swiss condensed milk were supplied by the Committee, which were with great advantage used for sick and weak persons, especially children. Besides this a sum of Rs. 773-0-6 was spent in providing small comforts in the shape of limejuice and bazar medicines, &c., to the sickly persons in the poorhouses and elsewhere.

Object II.—No orphanage has been maintained exclusively from the Charity Fund, but Rs. 200 per mensem were subscribed to a non-sectarian private orphanage in the city of Allahabad as a contribution towards the cost of maintenance of the orphans of the district in that institution. A part of the Government poorhouse at Allahabad city was reserved for "orphans" deserted by their friends or relations, who were picked up by the police and other Government officers and others. They were fed along with other inmates of the poorhouse from Government funds, but a staff, consisting of a matron and a khansama, to look specially after the comforts of the orphans, was maintained at the expense of the Fund money. The total cost so incurred was Rs. 298-4-11. Government relief in the poorhouse at Allahabad, however, came to a close on the 15th October, and since then the expenses of the institution have been exclusively borne by the Charity Fund, and this will continue until the orphans are finally disposed of.

Object III.—The principal expenditure under this head has been for the relief of *pardah-nashin* ladies and of respectable poor, who could not by reason of their sex, respectable origin, social customs, and the like comply with the Government tests for those requiring relief, and who were quite unaccustomed to bodily labour. Such people, as a rule, will not submit to the degradation which according to Indian notions must follow on resorting to relief works or seeking succour in poorhouses, &c. To provide food for such persons, money doles aggregating Rs. 1,37,213-6-3 were distributed throughout the affected area, which enabled them to tide over their

difficulties. Again, when it was found by experience that the giving of money doles for the relief of children to their guardians did not effect its object, as the parents or relations of the children in many instances used the money so provided for themselves and neglected their children, and as high-caste people generally had no objection to allowing their children under 12 years of age to receive food cooked by a high caste Bráhmán, 26 kitchens were started in the most affected parts of the district under the management of respectable landlords of the locality and under the supervision of the pargana officers. This cost the Fund Rs. 13,379-3-2. These forms of relief were found to be most effective and adapted to the conditions of the people, and at the same time most economical, as the average cost per head per mensem under the former head did not exceed Re. 1-1-8, and under the latter 10 annas and 3 pies.

Object IV.—A very large portion of the Fund has been spent under this head throughout the district; it consisted chiefly in gifts made for the purchase of seed, ploughs, bullocks, and for wages of labour, &c. The disbursements under this head were all made in the presence of the respective pargana officers and tahsildárs to the fittest tenants and zamindárs, lists of whom had been previously prepared by villages. These lists showed the ordinary area of *rabí* and *kharíf* in each one's holding, details of the crops grown, the number of cattle owned by each at the beginning of the year, and the number, if any, lost during the year by death or sale caused by distress; they were duly checked by local inquiry. No grants for seed and cattle were made in kind. Care was taken, as far as possible, that the recipients used the grants to the purposes for which they were given, but it is obvious that no precautions taken can afford any certainty that such sums were not used occasionally for other purposes. On the whole, however, I do not think such grants were extensively used for purposes other than those intended, as the needs of the people for cattle and seed, on which their future existence depended, were too pressing. A small sum, viz. Rs. 745-4-0, was also disbursed from the Fund to 104 persons for repairing or rebuilding their houses which had been destroyed by fire.

12. The City Committee did excellent service, and Kunwar Parmanand, the Honorary Secretary, Special Charity Committee, did most valuable work.

13. On receipt of letter No. 583, dated 3rd November 1897, from the Provincial Committee, all expenditure of the Fund money was stopped, excepting that on the maintenance of orphans by the Fund till arrangements were made by the Government for their permanent support.

G. BOWER, C.S.

I HAVE the honor to submit the final report on the India Famine Charitable Relief Fund of 1897 in this district, which has been written by Bábu Bhuban Chunder Bose, the Honorary Secretary, who has devoted an immense amount of time and trouble to the work.

2. One omission I note. Bábu Grish Chunder Dey, the head treasury clerk, I know, laboured indefatigably at the accounts.

C. D. STEEL, C.S.

1. Jhānsi and Lalitpur were two separate districts. From 1st December 1891 both the districts were amalgamated into one under the name of the Jhānsi district, and Lalitpur formed a sub-division of it.

2. The combined tract is bounded on the north by the Jalaun district, east by the Bundelkhand States, south by the Central Provinces, and west by the Gwalior State.

3. The area of the tract in square miles is 3,587; Jhānsi=1,640 and Lalitpur=1,947. Of the 49 districts in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh under the sway of the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, the district of Jhānsi stands as the fifth in area.

20.—JHANSI.
Collector's letter No. 668,
dated 11th December 1897,
Receipt no. 1221.

Report dated 29th November 1897.
Constitution of the Jhānsi district.

Boundaries.

Area.

Physical condition.

4. Jhānsi and Lalitpur both form portions of the hill country of Bundelkhand. Jhānsi may roughly be divided into two distinct tracts. The southern tract is highly rocky, intersected by ranges and groups of low jungle covered hills, dotted with lakes and sparsely populated; but the northern tract is comparatively level and lowlying, characterized by dark soil, naturally fertile and fairly well populated. Lalitpur has the appearance of an undulating plain, intersected by innumerable small water-courses. To the north, north-east and east, and to the south-east and south-west the soil is a poor red gravel with rocks cropping up at intervals, and having a small proportion of a somewhat better soil. Towards the centre and south and in isolated valleys elsewhere, there is a good deal of very rich black cotton soil. There are extensive forests in the combined area.

Territorial sub-division.

5. The territorial sub-divisions of the present Jhānsi district are: (1) Tahsil Jhānsi, area in square miles 465. (2) Tahsil Moth, area in square miles 241. (3) Tahsil Garotha, area in square miles 499. (4) Tahsil Mau, area in square miles 435. (5) Tahsil Lalitpur, area in square miles 1,059. (6) Tahsil Mehroni, area in square miles 888.

Population.

6. The total population of the district as returned in the Census of 1891 was 683,619, distributed as follows: (1) Tahsil Jhānsi, 145,680. (2) Tahsil Mau, 115,724. (3) Tahsil Garotha, 88,926. (4) Tahsil Moth, 59,039. (5) Tahsil Lalitpur, 115,715. (6) Tahsil Mehroni, 117,047. Total 683,619.

Area affected by famine.

7. The whole of the district was affected by famine. The accompanying* map shows approximately the tracts which were slightly and seriously affected, the light blue shade signifies the former and the dark blue the latter.

Rainfall.

8. The rainfall of two years preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 is given below:—

No.	Reporting station.						1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
							Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1	Moth	...	...	...	...	...	34.10	38.90	32.02
2	Garotha	...	...	...	...	...	39.61	29.40	35.50
3	Mau	...	...	...	...	...	53.30	39.40	31.48
4	Jhānsi	...	...	...	...	...	50.05	30.69	32.12
5	Lalitpur	...	...	...	...	...	64.35	26.41	36.87
6	Mehroni	...	...	...	...	...	76.88	32.80	37.30
7	Talbehat	...	...	...	...	...	54.96	24.23	37.88
8	Narhat	...	...	...	...	...	71.02	31.94	36.29
	Average					...	55.53	31.72	34.93

The table shows that the year 1895-96 had followed an abnormally wet one, and the fall in 1896-97 was greater than its predecessor, but both the years were characterized by the early cessation of the monsoon rains. The rainy season of 1895 had begun about the middle of June and continued with occasional long breaks till the end of August. In June the fall was heavy and general, in July irregular and scattered; in August it rained only in the first and last weeks, after which the rainy season practically came to an end. The winter rain averaged only 0.40 cents. and that fell in December. The autumn rains of 1896 generally commenced throughout the district on the 15th June 1896 and continued with occasional breaks up to the middle of August. The falls were good and well distributed. From the 16th to 28th August there were slight irregular and scattered showers after which there was a long break. From 15th to 19th September a few light and scattered showers fell, after which the rains altogether ceased. The winter rains averaged only 2.97 inches during 1896. There was no fall in October, in November 0.70 fell, in December 0.20 and in January 2.05 and after that they ceased.

* Not printed.

A very small portion of the district is capable of being irrigated, and this only if the rains do not fail; in years of drought, there is little water in the wells, while the lakes and tanks are unable to supply the wants of cultivators at the time of greatest need; so with the failure of the rains in the two years failed the crops also.

Irrigation.

9. The table below shows the area sown with food crops during the years 1895-96 and 1896-97. The figures pertain to the Jhānsi portion as owing to the settlement in progress in Lalitpur its figures are not obtainable.

Area sown with food crops.

<i>Kharif</i>					1895-96. Acres.	1896-97. Acres.
(1) Rice	...	...	...	...	7,986	8,563
(2) Indian-corn	...	...	...	...	1,122	1,733
(3) <i>Juār</i>	...	...	...	...	38,456	56,185
(4) <i>Bājra</i>	...	...	...	...	4,106	6,045
(5) <i>Urd</i> and <i>Mung</i>	...	...	...	...	3,740	4,563
(6) Other crops	...	...	...	...	36,822	42,771
Total					92,232	1,19,860
<i>Rabi.</i>						
(1) Sugarcane	...	...	...	...	467	249
(2) <i>Arhar</i>	...	...	...	...	38,567	62,103
(3) Wheat	...	...	...	...	9,905	11,358
(4) Barley	...	...	...	...	30,658	23,127
(5) Peas and gram	...	...	...	...	1,57,331	54,283
(6) Other crops	...	...	...	...	4,050	3,924
Total					2,41,003	1,55,049

The figures indicate that a larger *kharif* area was sown in 1896-97 than in 1895-96, but the *rabi* area was about two-thirds of that sown in 1895-96. These figures only represent the area sown, but not the area cropped. There had been some yield in the two years from the early rain crops; but the later *kharif* and the *rabi* were almost complete failures in both the years and more especially in 1897. Rice is not largely sown in this district, while the growing of sugarcane is but nominal.

10. The subjoined table shows the average outturn of the food crops in each of four years (16 annas representing an average good crop) :—

Crops grown in the district.

Season.				1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
<i>Autumn crops.</i>				Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.
(1) Rice	...	...	...	11	16	9	6
(2) Indian-corn	...	...	...	13	14	15	15
(3) <i>Juār</i>	...	...	...	13	12	11	8
(4) <i>Bājra</i>	...	...	...	14	11	9	3
(5) <i>Urd</i> and <i>mung</i>	...	...	...	12	13	9	4
(6) Other crops	...	...	...	15	16	13	13
Average				13	14	11	8
<i>Spring crops.</i>							
(1) Sugarcane	...	...	...	16	16	12	10
(2) <i>Arhar</i>	...	...	...	16	16	8	4
(3) Wheat	...	...	...	7	10	5	8
(4) Barley	...	...	...	16	16	6	8
(5) Peas and gram	...	...	...	16	16	7	7
(6) Other crops	...	...	...	15	16	10	6
Average				14	15	8	7

The figures speak for themselves as to the extent of the failure of the *kharif* and *rabi* harvests in the last two years which were years of famine in this district. The yield of *kharif* was 11 annas in 1895-96 and 8 annas in 1896-97, while the *rabi* yielded 8 and 7 annas respectively.

The cereals in this district are the *juár*, *bája*, wheat, barley, *arhar*, peas, and gram. It will be observed from the foregoing table that the yield of these crops in the last two years was about half that in the first two, resulting in famine in both the years. The distress in 1895-96 was not so acutely felt by the people as they had some surplus to fall back upon from the general full crops of 1894-95; but the distress became most severe in the year under report, as they had no resource except the scanty produce of their land and the fruits of the forests freely allowed by Government.

11. Under the head of occupation of the people, they are thus classed in the census return of 1891 :—

(1) Agriculturists	...	...	...	= 3,42,859 or 50 per cent.
(2) Traders and bankers	...	...	...	= 41,749 „ 6 ditto.
(3) Professional classes	...	...	...	= 15,232 „ 2 ditto.
(4) Artizans	...	...	...	= 87,699 „ 13 ditto.
(5) Menials	...	...	...	= 40,759 „ 6 ditto.
(6) Labourers	...	...	...	= 1,15,779 „ 19 ditto.
(7) Others	...	...	...	= 39,482 „ 4 ditto.

Total ... 6,83,619

The agriculturists are half of the total population. They include all persons who own or occupy land for purposes of agriculture or pasturage, but do not include agricultural labourers. The traders and bankers include shopkeepers, pedlars, and dealers of all description. The professionals are persons belonging to the learned professions, strictly so called; all Government servants above ministerial rank. The artisans include smiths and masons. The menials include ministerial Government servants, domestic servants, and village menials. The labourers include both agricultural and general labourers. The others are those who do not come under the above categories. In a year of general and dire famine all are affected by the dearth of provisions, but distress prevails more among the classes who live upon the produce of their land and labourers in general than others, so that three-fourths of the population of the district might be said to have actually suffered from the famine of 1897.

12. The people of this district generally are home loving. At the busy time of the harvesting of spring crops the roads leading from the sterile tracts of the district, swarm with men, women, and children proceeding as harvesters to the black soil plains, but after the harvesting many return to their homes, and those only who have no means of subsistence migrate to places beyond the district in quest of living. But in this year the relief given by Government and the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund had obviated the necessity of British subjects emigrating into the adjoining native states and elsewhere.

13. The prices of food grains ranged very high in 1896 and much more so up to September 1897, as will appear from the following table :—

		Retail rate per rupee.				
Year.		Wheat.	Gram.	Arhar (<i>dal</i>)	Rice (common).	Juár.
		Srs. c.	Srs. c.	Srs. c.	Srs. c.	Srs. c.
1896	...	11 14	16 3	13 12	10 10	16 5
1897	...	8 6	9 3	7 9	7 8	10 1

The enormous increase in prices in 1897 points to the fact of the very great depletion of stocks in the district. It indicates that not only the stocks of the affluent landholders were exhausted, but also those of the greedy grain-dealers whose *forte* is to reap large profits by sale of grain on high prices in years of agricultural depression. Great assistance, however, was afforded by the imports through the Indian Midland Railway, which runs through every part of the district. Had it not been for the

Economic condition of the people, and their chief occupations.

Custom of leaving home for employment elsewhere.

Prices of food grains.

considerable imports as shown below, the district would have fared much worse. The imports and exports during the 9 months of 1897 are given below :—

					Imports in maunds.	Exports in maunds.
January	...	...	...	...	14,537	4,960
February	...	...	...	...	38,463	3,769
March	...	...	...	...	35,826	2,470
April	...	...	...	...	47,132	2,254
May	...	...	...	...	1,26,490	1,312
June	...	...	...	...	94,315	2,389
July	...	...	...	...	79,113	5,179
August	...	...	...	...	40,965	1,357
September	...	...	...	...	30,047	1,995

In September 1897 the prices were the highest on record as compared with 1896, which also was a year of famine.

					1896. Srs. c.	1897. Srs. c.
Wheat per rupee...	...	...	...	...	9 4	8 9
Gram ditto...	...	...	...	...	11 6	8 5
Arhar dāl ditto...	...	...	...	...	11 6	7 0
Rice, common ditto	...	...	...	...	8 11	7 3
Juar ditto ...	...	...	...	...	12 4	10 2

But the mortality from starvation which was sure to follow was averted by the strenuous efforts of the humane Lieutenant-Governor of these Provinces and the Collector of the district, supplemented by the grants of funds from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund started at the very outset of the direst of famines which the year 1897 has witnessed in the annals of the history of British India.

14. The deaths from various causes during the last five revenue years are shown in the following table:—

Public health.

Year.		Small- Cholera.	pox.	Fever.	Bowel com- plaints.	Other causes.	Total.	Per mille.
1891-92 ...	...	2,352	43	13,385	2,174	6,977	24,929	36
1892-93 ...	...	112	59	9,602	1,383	5,708	16,864	24
1893-94 ...	...	6	61	10,692	1,398	6,494	18,921	27
1894-95 ...	...	403	127	15,496	2,049	6,740	24,815	36
1895-96 ...	...	6,095	1,361	22,344	3,391	7,444	40,635	59
1896-97 ...	...	1,046	66	23,021	3,662	8,187	35,982	53

The above figures indicate that in 1894-95 the death-rate was 36 per mille, but in 1895-96 it had risen to 59, brought about by all the causes enumerated in the table. The total mortality in 1895-96 was 15,820 in excess of 1894-95, which was free from famine, but not from distress due to agricultural depression. Judging by the mortality of the first year of famine, the deaths in the year under report ought to have been much more than in the preceding year, but they were obviated for the reasons given in the foregoing paragraph. Turning to the deaths from the various causes, the figures for 1896-97 compare very favourably with those of 1895-96. There were fewer deaths from cholera and from small-pox, but there was a slight rise from fever, bowel-complaints, and other causes. On the whole, the health of the people was much more satisfactory than in the preceding year.

15. The necessity for relief of distress was felt in this district as early as November 1896. On the 25th of that month a meeting of the European and Native citizens of Jhānsi was convened under the presidency of the District Collector, Mr. C. D. Steel, C.S., and a Committee was formed for the city of Jhānsi. Similar meetings were held at the suggestions of the district officer for the municipal towns of Mau-Rānipur and Lalitpur.

Formation of Charitable Relief Committees before the creation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

When relief distribution commenced.

16. The actual distribution of relief was commenced in each of the towns as follows: Jhānsi, 1st January 1897; Mau-Rānipur, 1st March 1897; Lalitpur, 15th February 1897.

Enlistment of recipients and mode of payment.

17. The procedure followed for the enlistment of recipients in each of the towns was the same. The towns were divided into circles of almoners of known respectability and honesty. Each almoner registered the names of the relief seekers and the latter were tested by a sub-committee by a house-to-house visitation, and the approved recipients listed in a general register. Tickets were issued, like in the specimen* attached, to the recipients and the almoners drew the money required for their circles in a voucher, a specimen* of which is also enclosed, and thereby a correct account keeping was ensured.

18. The relief given in the three towns was met from subscriptions raised locally. The rates of payment were originally—

				Rs. a. p.		
<i>Per diem</i> to males above 12 years	0	1 6
Ditto females ditto	0	1 3
Ditto children between 6 to 12 years	0	1 0
Ditto children below 6 years	0	0 9

but they were reduced as follows on receipt of G. O. No. 331, dated 2nd February 1897:—

				Rs. a. p.		
<i>Per diem</i> to adult male and females above 12 years	0	1 0
Ditto children from 7 to 12 years	0	0 9
Ditto children 2 to 7 do.	0	0 6
Ditto children below 2 do.	0	0 3

and these rates continued up to the close of operations.

Formation of additional charges.

19. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund money began to come in from the latter end of February 1897. It only augmented our scope of operations and afforded relief which the local subscriptions could not meet. On the receipt of the Charitable Fund money the following 23 additional charges were formed:—

- (1) Moth ... } in tahsil Moth, almoner the tahsildār.
- (2) Chfr .. }
- (3) Baragaon ... } ditto Jhānsi ditto.
- (4) Barwa Sagar ... }
- (5) Garotha ... } ditto Garotha ditto.
- (6) Garsarai ... }
- (7) Talbehat ... } ditto Lalitpur ditto.
- (8) Mehroni ... } ditto Mehroni ditto.
- (9) Maranra ... }
- (10) Poorhouse, Jhānsi, almoner Mr. J. H. Simpson, C.S.
- (11) Rev. J. F. Holcomb, for relief in places he visited.
- (12) Mrs. E. M. Bacon, in and around the town of Lalitpur.
- (13) Pandit Krishan Rao, in and outside the city of Jhānsi.
- (14) Mr. H. J. Hoare, C.S., Settlement Officer, Lalitpur.
- (15) „ J. E. Gondge, C.S., Assistant Settlement Officer, Lalitpur and Mehroni.
- (16) „ E. C. Allen, C.S., Assistant Magistrate in Garotha Tahsil.
- (17) „ W. E. K. Hare, C.S., Assistant Magistrate in Moth tahsil.
- (18) Captain W. C. C. Leslie, Cantonment Magistrate.
- (19) Ajndhia Prasad, Special Naib Tahsildār, on famine duty in tahsil Mehroni.

- (20) Har Dat Sahai, Special Náib Tahsildár, on famine duty in tahsil Lalitpur.
 (21) Ganga Sahai, Special Náib Tahsildár, on famine duty in tahsil Mau.
 (22) Zahur-ul Husain, Special Náib Tahsildár, on famine duty in tahsil Moth.
 (23) Dr. Brander, Civil Surgeon, in town Jhánsi.

20. The town of Jhánsi was circled out to 9 almoners as follows :—

Division of towns into almoners' circles.

(1) Pandit Krishn Rao,	5 wards.	(6) Bábu Prasanna Chander Chatterjee,	5 wards.
(2) Shaikh Ali Ahmad,	9 do.	(7) Bábu Bipin Bihari Banerji,	4 wards.
(3) Bábu Bhuban Chandar Bose,	6 do.	(8) Pandit Babaji Hari,	6 do.
(4) Seth Kanak Singh,	7 do.	(9) Seth Ganga Sahai,	3 do.
(5) Dube Tulsi Das,	6 do.		

The towns of Mau-Ranipur and Lalitpur were divided among 13 and 11 almoners, respectively.

21. The town reliefs were at first originated with local subscriptions and the latter merged into the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund from the latter end of February 1897, the Government supplementing the same with a monthly grant of Rs. 800 from February to September 1897 for the town of Jhánsi alone for the relief of its *parda-nashin* and respectable poor.

Origin of relief.

22. At first the *parda-nashin* and the respectable poor, whose circumstances were such that the forms of relief consisting of the relief work and the poorhouse were inapplicable to them, were being relieved from the local subscriptions; but with the augmentation of the funds by the addition of Indian Famine Charitable Relief money, and the distress becoming acuter, the scope of relief was extended to all classes of people who scrupled to beg in public or become inmates in the poorhouses. As the Government grant was about a fifth of the monthly expenditure in the town of Jhánsi the same was included in the general fund and distributed in the ordinary way, and no account could be kept of the *number* of persons relieved; but the cost has been excluded from the general fund.

Scope of relief.

23. Since there existed no separate organization of Government gratuitous relief in any of the municipal towns, the sums expended were all met from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief money and local subscriptions, so there had been no overlapping of Government relief to the detriment of the Charitable Fund Relief.

Overlapping of Government relief with Indian Famine Charitable Relief.

24. The funds of the committee were lodged in the Jhánsi branch of the Allahabad Bank, "Limited," and the Honorary Secretary drew the money as occasion required on written authority from the President.

Funds of the Committee where lodged.

25. Of the receipts of Rs. 1,64,654-1-0 the sum of Rs. 3,833-2-4 was raised by subscription as follows :—

Receipts.

					Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Jhánsi town	...	...	...	...	2,573	2	4
(2) Mau-Ranipur	...	...	...	...	434	2	0
(3) Lalitpur	...	...	...	...	820	14	0
(4) Moth	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Total	...	...	...	...	3,833	2	4

Contributed by—

					Rs.	a.	p.
European residents	...	...	...	...	1,514	9	4
Native residents	...	...	...	...	2,288	9	0

vide the list of subscription* herewith sent. The main receipt was from the Provincial Committee, *viz.* Rs. 1,60,800, and the interest from the Allahabad Bank formed its other receipt, Rs. 20-14-8.

26. The whole of this amount was spent from 1st January to 31st October 1897 under the four objects prescribed in Enclosure A of Provincial Committee's printed letter No. 9 of 5th February 1897, leaving no balance on 31st October 1897,

Disbursements.

* Not printed.

27. The amount disbursed in each charge was as follows :—

				Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Jhānsi Town relief ...	...	...	...	19,734	1	0
(2) Mau-Ranipur do. ...	...	...	...	6,034	2	0
(3) Lalitpur do. ...	...	...	...	5,020	14	0
(4) Moth tahsil do. ...	...	...	...	2,405	0	0
(5) Mehroni do. ...	...	...	...	2,200	0	0
(6) Jhānsi do. ...	...	...	...	1,200	0	0
(7) Garotba do. ...	...	...	...	1,300	0	0
(8) Lalitpur do. ...	...	...	...	1,200	0	0
(9) Mr. J. H. Simpson, C.S. ...	...	...	...	600	0	0
(10) Revd. J. F. Holcomb ...	...	...	...	840	0	0
(11) Mrs E. M. Bacon ...	...	...	...	700	0	0
(12) Pandit Krishan Rao ...	...	...	...	300	0	0
(13) Mr. H. J. Hoare, C.S. ...	...	...	...	24,100	0	0
(14) „ J. E. Goudge, C.S. ...	...	...	...	23,078	0	0
(15) „ E. C. Allen, C.S. ...	...	...	...	21,200	0	0
(16) „ W. E. K. Haro ...	...	...	...	19,567	0	0
(17) Captain W. C. C. Leslie ...	...	...	...	250	0	0
(18) Ajudhia Parshad, Special Paminio Relief Naib Tahsildar ...	...	...	...	100	0	0
(19) Har Dat Singh ditto ditto ...	...	...	...	100	0	0
(20) Gauga Sahai ditto ditto ...	...	...	...	100	0	0
(21) Zahur-ul Husain ditto ditto ...	...	...	...	200	0	0
(22) Dr. Brander, Civil Surgeon ...	...	...	...	1,170	0	0
(23) Babu Bhuban Chander Bose, Deputy Collector... ..	...	...	...	13,057	0	0
(24) „ Shibbau Lall, ditto ...	...	...	...	17,998	0	0
(25) „ Ishri Pershad, ditto ...	...	...	...	2,100	0	0
(26) Mau tahsil ...	...	...	...	100	0	0
Total				1,64,654	1	0

28. Of the total sum spent in relief in the town of Jhānsi, Rs. 18,237-1-6 was distributed in food relief and Rs. 1,030-7-3 in clothing and Rs. 416-5-3 in miscellaneous expenditure. The amounts distributed by each of the 9 members are as follow :—

				Rs.	a.	p.	
(1) Pandit Krishan Rao ...	...	...	...	3,506	3	0	(as member of Committee).
(2) Munshi Ali Ahmad ...	...	...	...	2,170	12	3	
(3) Babu Bhuban ghauder Bose ...	...	...	...	4,162	4	0	(as member of Committee).
(4) Pandit Dubo Tula Das ...	...	...	...	2,072	0	0	
(5) Seth Kauak Singh ...	...	...	...	1,781	5	0	
(6) Babu Prasanna Chander Chatterjee ...	...	...	...	4,586	3	3	
(7) „ Bipin Behari Banerjee ...	...	...	...	419	9	3	
(8) Pandit Babaji Ilari ...	...	...	...	804	14	3	
(9) Seth Ganga Sahai ...	...	...	...	230	13	9	
Total				19,734	1	0	

Babu Bhuban Chander Bose, as Honorary Secretary of the Jhānsi town and of the District Local Committee, had to spend Rs. 416-5-3 at the headquarters in remitting money to distributors by money-orders and in office charges.

Object I. Form B.

29. The amount paid for object I was spent in providing clothing to the inmates in the poorhouses and in supplementing the subsistence ration in the shape of small comforts and a treat to the poorhouse at the time of Her Majesty the Empress' Diamond Jubilee at a cost of Rs. 50.

Object II.

30. The amount spent for the maintenance of orphans was Rs. 705-5-0. Much of this amount was spent in Lalitpur, which being more affected had a larger number of orphans than in any town.

Object III.

31. Under object III the form of relief given was gratuitous money doles, the scale of which has been set forth in paragraph 18 of this report. The dol was distributed weekly. Owing to caste prejudices cooked food was not found acceptable except in the case of low caste small children for whom a kitchen was started in the town of Jhānsi. Other modes of relief could not be enforced as the recipient selected for relief being old, infirm, blind, lame and decrepit were incapable of doing any task

work. There were very few *parda-nashin* women; but as these females here are unaccustomed to such occupations as embroidery and needle work, no materials were advanced to them.

32. For object IV, relief to agriculturists, rupees one lakh and twenty thousand were received from the Provincial Committee on the following dates:—

Object IV.

						Rs.
6th May 1897	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
20th May 1897	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
25th May 1897	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
1st June 1897	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
3rd August 1897	...	...	...	...	...	20,000
Total						1,20,000

The annexed table will show the disbursement of this large sum in each of the six tahsils comprised in this district. The seriously affected parts were tahsils Garotha and portions of Moth and Mau in the north, and tahsils Lalitpur and Mehroni in the south; tahsil Jhānsi was comparatively safer. The distribution was made according as the requirements in those places were. If this most considerable and beneficent relief had not come, the effects of the famine would have been most disastrous to the agriculturists. A fourth of them would have had to leave their homes and lands and settle elsewhere or die. The distribution for the autumn crops was finished before the end of June and for the spring crops before October.

Number.	Name of distributor.	Name of tahsil.	Cultivators.						Artizans.								GRAND TOTAL.	
			Plough cattle.		Seed grain.		Total.		Blacksmiths.		Car-penters.		Weavers.		Total.			
			No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Amount.		
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Kharif (Autumn).																		
1	H. J. Hoare, Esq., C.S.	Lalitpur,	493	12,031	1,512	7,669	2,005	20,000	40	500	40	500	...	...	80	1,000	2,085	21,000
2	J. E. Goudge, Esq., C.S.	Mehroni,	716	9,938	1,041	9,021	1,756	19,559	36	230	40	189	...	...	76	419	1,832	19,978
3	E. C. Allen, Esq., C.S.	Garotha,	631	17,000	820	3,681	1,451	20,681	47	185	45	134	...	...	92	319	1,549	21,000
4	W. E. K. Hare, Esq., C.S.	Moth ...	317	11,778	801	4,784	1,118	16,562	...	...	71	405	...	...	71	405	1,189	16,967
5	B. Bhuvan Chander Bose, Deputy Collector.	Jhānsi ...	437	8,445	419	1,963	856	10,408	24	169	36	180	...	...	60	349	916	10,757
6	B. Shibban Lal, Deputy Collector.	Mau ...	348	8,865	888	5,809	1,296	14,674	73	722	24	249	63	353	160	1,324	1,396	15,998
Total ...			2,941	68,057	6,481	33,827	8,422	1,01,884	220	1,806	256	1,657	63	353	539	3,816	8,961	1,05,700
Rabi (Spring).																		
1	H. J. Hoare, Esq., C.S.	Lalitpur,	...	...	555	3,000	555	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	555	3,000
2	J. E. Goudge, Esq., C.S.	Mehroni,	...	...	519	3,000	519	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	519	3,000
3	W. E. K. Hare, Esq., C.S.	Moth ...	...	...	64	2,000	64	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	2,000
4	B. Ishri Parshad, Deputy Collector	Garotha,	...	...	244	2,000	244	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	244	2,000
5	B. Bhuvan Chander Bose, Deputy Collector.	Jhānsi ...	1	25	277	1,940	278	1,965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278	1,965
6	B. Shibban Lal, Deputy Collector.	Mau ...	...	...	207	2,000	207	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207	2,000
Total ...			1	25	1,866	13,940	1,867	13,965	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,867	13,965
Total of Kharif and Rabi,			2,942	68,082	7,347	47,767	10,289	1,15,849	220	1,806	256	1,657	63	353	539	3,816	10,828	1,19,665
Add miscellaneous expenses — printing of forms and allowance to clerks, &c.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
GRAND TOTAL ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,20,000
Average ...			...	23 2 3 1/2	...	6 8 0	...	...	...	8 3 5	...	6 7 7	...	5 7 9	...	...	...	...

The sowings of the autumn crops begin with the early rains, and those of the *rabi* after their cessation. As to the selection of the recipients the method followed was that the *patwari* and the headman of each village sent up the names of the most necessitous cases and these lists were tested by the *tahsildar* and distributing officer and finally passed by the Collector. The area to be sown with *kharif* and *rabi* was ascertained in each case, and according to the necessity of the listed person the price for bullocks and seed was given. Not more than a pair of bullocks was given in a case, and in many cases one only was given. The distributor was able to ascertain by questioning the village people assembled whether the relief seeker had or had not the wherewithal to buy his bullocks, and also the truth of the existence or non-existence of his plough-cattle, and after the ascertainment of these facts and comparing the area to be sown, the allowance for plough-cattle was made. As for seed grain the recorded area helped to calculate the price to be paid as the quantities required for sowing a *bigha* of land are ascertained facts in respect of each *tahsil*, and acting upon these data the money was allowed. It was made a rule that persons receiving bullocks were not allowed seed grain (but in a few cases both were allowed, since a man having a pair of plough bullocks was able to raise the small money required for *kharif* sowings as the grains are not costly whereas in the case of *rabi* seed grain the sowing quantity is greater and the price higher. The table will show that the necessity for giving bullocks was obviated by the *rabi* sowings and the amount given for *rabi* seed grain was Rs. 13,940, while for *kharif* we had to pay Rs. 33,827. The latter fact indicates that very substantial relief was afforded to the agriculturists which had enabled them to raise better crops and thereby minimized their wants for *rabi* seed grain. Two thousand nine hundred and forty-two persons were allowed Rs. 68,082, averaging Rs. 23-2-3 each, for the purchase of plough-bullocks. The seed grain recipients were 7,347, and the amount given was Rs. 47,767, or Rs. 6-8-0 each. The total number of agriculturists relieved was 10,289 and the amount given was Rs. 1,15,849. Divided into the two seasons the figures stand thus:—

	Plough cattle.			Seed grain.			Total.		
	Persons.	Amount. Rs. a. p.		Persons.	Amount. Rs. a. p.		Persons.	Amount. Rs. a. p.	
<i>Kharif</i> ...	2,941	68,057	0 0	5,481	33,827	0 0	8,422	1,01,884	0 0
<i>Rabi</i> ...	1	25	0 0	1,866	13,940	0 0	1,867	13,965	0 0
Total ...	2,942	68,082	0 0	7,347	47,767	0 0	10,289	1,15,849	0 0

Relief to artisans, blacksmiths, and carpenters.

33. As the village blacksmith and carpenter are also factors in the economy of Indian agriculture, a few of the most necessitous cases from both were selected and relieved. In their case the necessity for relief was ascertained from the assembled cultivators of each village, and then relief was given. The blacksmiths relieved were 220 receiving Rs. 1,806, and carpenters 256 who got Rs. 1,657. The average payment for a blacksmith was Rs. 8-3-5 and for a carpenter Rs. 6-7-7. All the recipients were provided with money for such tools as were essentially required for making agricultural implements. If they had been fitted with all the tools, the cost of the head would have been double what was allowed or more.

Weavers.

34. In Mau *tahsil* there is a large population of weavers, and 63 families were in want of their implements were provided with money to start business again. The sum given to them was Rs. 353. The total amount paid to artisan classes was Rs. 3,816.

Miscellaneous expenditure.

35. The amount paid for clerical establishment and printing of forms and stationery was Rs. 335 or less than a pie in the rupee to the whole amount disbursed.

Acknowledgment of money given.

36. Where possible the recipients signed their names and the illiterate put their marks against their names on the register of payments, a specimen copy of which is herewith enclosed,* in acknowledgment of the sum received, and each payment was attested by the distributors, four of whom were Covenanted Civil Servants and four of the Provincial Civil Service.

37. The distribution made by each of the officers is shown below :—

			Rs.
(1)	H. J. Hoare, Esq., C.S., Settlement Officer	...	24,000
(2)	J. E. Goudge Esq., C.S., Assistant Settlement Officer	...	22,978
(3)	E. C. Allen Esq., C.S., Assistant Magistrate	...	21,000
(4)	W. E. K. Hare, Esq., C.S., Magistrate	...	18,967
(5)	Bábu Bhuban Chander Bose, Deputy Collector	...	13,057
(6)	" Shibban Lal ditto	...	17,998
(7)	" Ishri Parshad ditto	...	2,000
Total			1,20,000

38. The official position of the almoners was a guarantee for correct payment. They distributed the money by their own hands, and while handing it cautioned the recipients not to use it for any other purpose than that for which it was given. It was feared that patwáris and village headmen would mislead the recipients, but this was rarely done. There were few complaints made, and even in these few some were found to have been instituted for satisfaction of old grudges against the patwaris. The complaints made were 17. In 3 the patwari was convicted and in 14 he was acquitted or discharged. Two complaints were preferred against village headmen and both were convicted. On the whole the measures taken were crowned with success in affording suitable relief to agriculturists who were in actual need of it.

Money for object how distributed.

39. There was no special item of receipt or expenditure in this district. The only extra item of receipt was the paltry sum of Rs. 20-14-8 interest allowed by the Allahabad Bank, Limited, Jhānsi, on the balance of the current account of the funds of the District Committee which were lodged in it. The expenditure of this money was included in the general expenditure of the fund.

Special items of receipt and expenditure.

40. In organizing the relief and distributing it, the work lasted for a year from November 1896 to October 1897, and every one connected with it has done his part with zeal and self-sacrifice. In raising subscriptions in the native part of the town of Jhānsi, Chaube Chhedi Lal of the firm of Jai Kishan Das Sri Nibas Das, Bankut Ram of Raghunath Das Hannu Mal, Tulsi Das Dube, banker and zamindar and Munshi Sham Lal of the firm of Golab Chand Seth have done good service. As Government officials had no hand in the matter it was managed by the above-named gentlemen and they deserve credit for it.

Mention of service.

41. In the town of Jhānsi there were 9 members for distribution of relief. All of them have worked in the cause with a whole heart and performed their duties most satisfactorily. Bábu Prasanna Chandra Chatterjee and Pandit Krishan Rao had large numbers of poor in their circles, so they had to devote much of their time to this work. Babu Prasanna Chandra besides the work of his charge, had at the height of distress in the city opened a kitchen for feeding the starving children and took considerable pains in performing this arduous work. Pandit Krishan Rao looked after the needs of the wanderers in and outside the city in addition to his charge as a member, and he did his work well too. Dube Tulsi Das and Seth Kanak Singh besides their circle work had helped the Secretary every week in counting the small silver and copper before being sent out to the several members for distribution, and their help in this respect proved very useful to the Secretary. They and Bábu Bipin Behari Banerjee helped the Secretary in buying from the local weavers clothes for the city poor worth more than a thousand rupees.

Relief distri. Jhānsi town.

Shaikh Ali Ahmad, Pandit Babaji Hari, and Seth Ganga Sahai have done their circle work well; of the nine members, Bábu Prasanna Chander Chatterjee and Pandit Babaji Hari were rewarded with certificates on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. The success of the city relief was due to their exertions and self-sacrifice.

In Mau the Honorary Secretary mentions the names of the following gentlemen as having taken special interest in the work :—

Mau town.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (1) Lala Mansukh Das, merchant. | (3) Munshi Ram Sarup Lal, <i>rais.</i> |
| (2) Seth Chaudan Mal, ditto. | (4) Pandit Jay Ram, <i>do.</i> |

The sowings of the autumn crops begin with the early rains, and those of the *rabi* after their cessation. As to the selection of the recipients the method followed was that the patwari and the headman of each village sent up the names of the most necessitous cases and these lists were tested by the tahsildar and distributing officers and finally passed by the Collector. The area to be sown with *kharif* and *rabi* was ascertained in each case, and according to the necessity of the listed person the price for bullocks and seed was given. Not more than a pair of bullocks was given in any case, and in many cases one only was given. The distributor was able to ascertain by questioning the village people assembled whether the relief seeker had or had not the wherewithal to buy his bullocks, and also the truth of the existence or non-existence of his plough-cattle, and after the ascertainment of these facts and comparing the area to be sown, the allowance for plough-cattle was made. As for seed grain the recorded area helped to calculate the price to be paid as the quantities required for sowing a bigha of land are ascertained facts in respect of each tahsil, and acting upon these data the money was allowed. It was made a rule that persons receiving bullocks were not allowed seed grain (but in a few cases, both were allowed, since a man having a pair of plough bullocks was able to raise the small money required for *kharif* sowings as the grains are not costly, whereas in the case of *rabi* seed grain the sowing quantity is greater and the price higher. The table will show that the necessity for giving bullocks was obviated for the *rabi* sowings and the amount given for *rabi* seed grain was Rs. 13,940, while for *kharif* we had to pay Rs. 33,827. The latter fact indicates that very substantial relief was afforded to the agriculturists which had enabled them to raise better crops and thereby minimized their wants for *rabi* seed grain. Two thousand nine hundred and forty-two persons were allowed Rs. 68,082, averaging Rs. 23-2-3 each, for purchase of plough-bullocks. The seed grain recipients were 7,347, and the amount given was Rs. 47,767, or Rs. 6-8-0 each. The total number of agriculturists relieved was 10,289 and the amount given was Rs. 1,15,849. Divided into the two seasons the figures stand thus :—

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<i>Habi</i> ...	1	25	0	0	1,866	13,940	0	0	1,867	13,965	0	0
Total ...	2,942	68,082	0	0	7,347	47,767	0	0	10,289	1,15,849	0	0

Relief to artizans, blacksmiths, and carpenters.

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Money for object IV,
how distributed.

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Relief distributors,
Jhānsi town.

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In Mau the Honorary Secretary mentions the names of the following gentlemen as having taken special interest in the work :—

Mau town.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (1) Lāla Mansukh Das, merchant. | (3) Muushi Ram Sarup Lal, <i>raīs</i> . |
| (2) Seth Chaudan Mal, ditto. | (4) Pandit Jay Ram, <i>do</i> . |

Lalitpur town.

In Lalitpur the following members have done good work :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Chanbe Janki Pershad, <i>raís</i> . | (3) Rao Pahar Singh, zamindár, Narhat. |
| (2) Shaikh Hurmat Ali, contractor. | (4) Rao Debi Singh, zamindár, Rajerara. |
| (5) Mahant Mahendra Gir, zamindár, Sira. | |

Honorary Secretaries.

42. In the towns of Jhānsi and Mau the Secretaries remained the same throughout the period of operations, *viz.*, Bábu Bhuban Chander Bose, Deputy Collector, Secretary to the Jhānsi Local and District Committees and Bábu Sripati Sahai, Rai Bahádur, Assistant Surgeon, Mau. In Lalitpur the office was held by Pandit Pitambar Joshi, Munsif, from December 1896 to 30th April 1897, and by Pandit Deokinandan Chanbe, B.A., vakil, from 1st May to 31st October 1897. I cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by these gentlemen. If I had not been assisted by them, the work of relief and account keeping would not have been so successfully carried out as has been done in this district. The accounts were checked by the Government Auditor, who found them in good condition.

43. In the distribution of relief to agriculturists which formed the most arduous work in the whole relief operations the assistance rendered by the district staff of officers—

- Mr. H. J. Hoare, C.S., Settlement Officer, Lalitpur ;
 „ J. E. Goudge, C.S., Assistant ditto ;
 „ E. C. Allen, C.S., Assistant Magistrate and Collector ;
 „ W. E. K. Hare, C.S., ditto ;
 Bábu Bhuban Chander Bose, Deputy Collector ;
 „ Shibban Lal, ditto—

was invaluable and they are worthy of the best commendation. Among the non-official Europeans who have zealously assisted in the work were Reverend J. F. Holcomb, Jhānsi and Mrs. E. M. Bacon, Lalitpur. As the famine of 1897 was the direst that ever visited British India, it would be interesting if the services rendered by the non-official members are recognised by award of certificates by the Government.

Winding up of relief.

44. The relief operations were wound up in this district on 31st October 1897. The listed poor on that date were granted a week's money dole in advance and a piece or pair of new clothes according as they deserved in view of the approaching winter. There was no receipt to realize nor any liability to pay. Whatever was received was expended and the account closed without a balance.

BHUBAN CHANDER BOSE.

21.—JALAUUN.

Collector's letters no.
491,
dated 2nd Dec.
XII—75
ember 1897.
Receipt no. 1160.

(a) SIXTEEN remittances aggregating Rs. 3,42,600 were received from the Provincial Committee to be distributed under the four objects. The details are—Rs. 800 received through the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division specially for clothing ; Rs. 1,800 by two transfer receipts (one for Rs. 1,600 and the other for Rs. 200 included in Rs. 8,200). The total amount allotted by the Committee specially for clothing was thus Rs. 2,600. Rs. 75,000 were given by the Committee for objects I to III and Rs. 2,65,000 for object IV, *i.e.* Rs. 2,00,000 for the purchase of bullocks and *khari*f seed, Rs. 55,000 for *rabi* seed and purchase of cattle and Rs. 10,000 for subsistence allowance to cultivators in the rainy season. (b) Rs. 600 were locally subscribed. Thus the total amount for distribution under the several objects in the hands of the District Committee was Rs. 3,43,200.

2. Of the above sum Rs. 3,41,653-12-4 were distributed up to the end of October 1897, Rs. 1,48-11-5 were spent within the first week of November 1897 and the balance (Rs. 1,487-8-5) was remitted by a remittance transfer receipt to the Provincial Committee.

3. The area of the district is 946,995 acres, that is about 1,477 square miles ; with a population of 396,361.

4. Distress prevailed all over the district owing to deficient rainfall and consequent failure of the *rabi* crops in 1303 fasli and both *kharif* and *rabi* in 1304 fasli. A few villages had some *sawan* and *kakun*, but their number was not large enough to affect the prospects of the district. The *parwa* tracts in the north-west of the district, where irrigation was possible, had some *juar* and *bajra*, but not in quantities sufficient to reduce the prevailing famine to any appreciable extent.

5. In this district *fmār* and *fhābar* soils predominate and these are generally sown with *rabi* crops. For the last two seasons the *rabi* outturns have been very small consequent on the failure of the rains.

6. The labouring classes and agriculturists sought relief at the big works under the control of the Public Works Department. Those who from their position or other consideration could not go to these works were relieved at their homes from Government funds and from the money provided by the Provincial Committee.

7. The population of the district mostly falls under the two heads of agriculturists and labourers. It is not usual for them to leave their homes in order to seek employment.

8. The district was divided into six sub-divisions each in the charge of a gazetted officer. To save correspondence and to facilitate the interchange of ideas, a meeting of all the sub-divisional officers used to be held at Jalann, which is a central place, every second Sunday. On receipt of the first instalment of funds from the Provincial Committee a meeting was held on the 28th of February 1897, and all the details regarding distributions and submission of accounts were settled. The distribution of money under object III was made monthly by the sub-divisional officer himself or by the tahsildar under his orders.

9. Village relief from Government funds having ordinarily a limit based on a percentage of the population, the funds given by the Provincial Committee came in very useful in relieving distress, considering the large number of those that required relief.

10. Individuals who did not get a dole under sections 54 and 124 of the Famine Code, and who yet required relief were relieved from the Charitable Fund. The sub-divisional officers kept a list of such people and paid them from time to time.

11. *Object IV.*—Lists of people needing help for the purchase of grain and seed were made out and tested by the sub-divisional officers and their assistants. Payments were then made in the presence of the patwaris and headmen of villages.

In conclusion I have to add that as I was not in the district during the famine, this report has been compiled from the available records and not from personal knowledge.

JWALA PRASAD, N.C.S.

I JOINED this district on the 4th November 1897, that is after all the Charitable Relief operations in this district had been closed, and when I took over charge of the office of Secretary to the Local Committee from Mr. H. E. L. P. Dupernex, C.S., proceeding on furlough, it only remained for me to wind up the accounts and submit this report and the statements. Consequently under the circumstances I am unable to record anything from my personal experience. All that I can write must be based on the statistics prepared in the office and other existing records.

2. The total area of the district is 1,009.5 square miles with a population of 921,943, out of which the rural tracts comprise 891 square miles with a population of 710,357 exclusive of tahsil Gangapur, which is included in the Family Domains

* A soil of light clay.

† Varieties of black cotton soil.

22.—BENARES.
Honorary Secretary's
letter no. 672, dated 4th
December 1897.
Receipt no. 1166.

of the Maharaja of Benares and separately administered by the Deputy Superintendent of the estate. The city of Benares includes 218.5 square miles with a population of 211,586.

3. The normal areas of *kharif* and *rabi* crops are nearly the same, being 246,047 and 255,310 acres respectively. Both crops are to a certain extent irrigated from wells and tanks, there being no canal in the district; but the *kharif* crop especially depends much more on the rains than on any artificial irrigation.

4. The rural tracts are mainly inhabited by agriculturists and field labourers who are to a large extent dependent upon the quality of the crops. The tenantry who now hold land at a fixed rate of rent, and also occupancy tenants, would seem to be better off than they were 15 or 20 years ago, the value of the land having since increased and their credit also. But on the other hand, the condition of tenants-at-will and sub-tenants has been undergoing a change for the worse on account of the general rise of rent owing to the great demand for land due to the rise in the price of produce as well as to the increase in the population.

5. The condition of village labourers owing to the rise of prices would have been very unfortunate had they not been paid hitherto in grain, an old custom which employers are beginning to replace by cash payments.

6. The city population may be sub-divided into four main classes, namely—(1) wealthy bankers and minor money-lenders, (2) large and small shopkeepers, (3) artisans, and (4) servants and day-labourers.

Excepting the first class, most of those included in the remaining classes have been in far from affluent circumstances, and thousands of them having been living literally from hand to mouth. The class most affected during the recent famine was that of artisans, and among them most prominently the *julkhas*, the weavers of Benares, who are well known throughout India for their rich brocades and Benarsi cloth.

7. Owing to the stoppage of trade during the plague with Bombay, which has been the chief market for their produce, their trade received a severe blow and came almost to a standstill. The famine having further diminished their resources, their position became a very unfortunate one.

8. To the four classes enumerated above, a fifth class may also be added comprising the numerous mendicants and beggars; these are mostly immigrants from far and near, who flock into Benares, some with the desire to breathe their last in the Holy Kashi and others to share the far-famed charity of the sacred city.

9. During the last quarter of the year 1896 the *kharif* which was the available crop had failed to the extent of 12 annas in the rupee, the rice area (100,000 acres) being said to have yielded less than a 2-anna crop, while the rest of the *kharif* crop was estimated at about 6 annas.

10. Though this district of Benares was not officially declared as distressed, the pinch of scarcity began to be felt in the city, and on the 15th September 1896 the weavers, whose number amounts to about 20,000, made an organized demonstration and assembled to the number of about 5,000 to present a petition to the Collector of Benares, complaining against municipal taxation and the octroi duty. They were told that their demands could not be complied with, but that arrangements would be made to relieve them in case necessity arose.

11. On 20th October 1896 a meeting of leading and influential residents of Benares was convened by the Collector and Magistrate at the Town Hall, Benares, the Commissioner of the Division presiding, and a general fund was opened for the relief of distress in Benares under the administration of a Committee consisting of prominent citizens and officials. The fund raised on the spot amounted to Rs. 4,000, and a Committee was formed under the name of *Benares Famine Relief Fund*, and the following gentlemen were appointed to serve on the committee with power to add to

their number: the Commissioner *President*, the Collector *Vice-President*, the Joint Magistrate *Secretary*, Pandit Maharaj Narain Shivpuri, Rai Bahadur, Deputy Collector and Rai Shyam Krishna, *Joint Secretaries*, H. M. MacConnel *Treasurer*, and Surgeon-Major T. H. Sweeny, B. Pramoda Das Mittra, B. Raghunandan Prasad, Rai Bahadur, B. Balkishan Das, B. Rama Das, Revd. A. Parker, M. Madho Lal, M. Jamal-ud-din Ahmad, the members of the Municipal Board and the members of the District Board as *members*.

12. The next meeting of the Committee, which was held on the 22nd October 1896, sub-divided the city into ten circles, and for each circle a sub-committee was nominated consisting of a Secretary, an almoner and members.

13. The names of the secretaries and almoners are as follow :—

<i>Name of Circle.</i>	<i>Name of Secretary.</i>	<i>Name of Almoner.</i>
1. Adampurā ...	Hafiz Muhammad Ahsan ...	S. Habib Ahmad.
2. Bhelupur ...	Mirza Mansur Bakht ...	Mirza Mansur Bakht.
3. Chetganj ...	B. Jagdeo Prasad Gour ...	B. Nilratna Banerji.
4. Cantonment ...	S. Qadir Bakhsh ...	S. Qadir Bakhsh.
5. Dasasumedh ...	B. Nilratna Banerji ...	B. Nilratna Banerji.
6. Jaitpura ...	M. Abdul Wahid Khan ...	S. Habib Ahmed.
7. Kotwali ...	B. Radha Kishen ...	M. Jamal-ud-din Ahmad.
8. Kāl Bhairo ...	P. Chhannu Lal ...	Rai Krishnaji.
9. Seorole ...	S. Qadir Bakhsh ...	Saiyid Ali Naqi, D. C.
10. Shivapur ...	Joint Magistrate ...	Joint Magistrate.

14. Lists of paupers under section 54 and Chapter X of the Famine Code were prepared by the sub-committees and forwarded to the Secretary of the Relief Fund who issued tickets in the names of those who were considered deserving of charity. The ticket-holders were entitled to receive in advance from the almoners of their respective circles a monthly allowance of Re. 1, but where tickets were issued in favour of a family Re. 0-12-0 per head was allowed. The Benares Famine Relief Fund undertook relief in the city only, whereas the district relief was administered by Government officials exclusively with Government money. The constituents of the Fund were: (1) Monthly grants* of Rs. 5,000 from Government. (2) Monthly grant of Rs. 2,000 from the Provincial Committee. (3) Local subscriptions. It was decided that the whole sum of Rs. 5,000 received monthly from Government should be expended in gratuitous relief and that if more money was required, it would be taken from the Relief Fund. The system has worked well.

Poorhouse.—A permanent institution for cripples and invalids—Rāja Kali Shankar's Asylum—increased its accommodation early in the season and took in paupers before temporary poorhouses were opened. Two temporary poorhouses were opened: one at Rājghāt on the 5th December 1896, accommodating about 300, and the other at Chaukaghāt. A supplementary poorhouse was also opened at Purānapul which was first used on the 2nd March 1897. The first one was closed on the 31st October 1897 and the second one on the 15th September 1897. The expenditure and management of these poorhouses was borne exclusively by the Municipal Board of Benares. The paupers were mostly from other districts. The Mahārāja of Benares maintained a poorhouse at Kamachha from 25th December 1896 to the middle of April 1897, accommodating about 200 inmates. The expenditure in sending the paupers from poorhouses to their homes was borne by the Relief Fund.

Clothing.—At the meeting of the 13th April 1897 it was decided that the circle authorities make inquiries and prepare lists of persons in need of clothes and also that clothing be promptly given where required. Accordingly blankets and *thāns* of *markin* were purchased and distributed to the paupers in the poorhouses as well as to others outside them. In June last 50 skirts and 50 *chaddars* were received from England for distribution, and they were disbursed through the medium of the Missionary ladies working here and through local almoners.

* Excluded from the accounts.

Weavers' relief.—The Lieutenant-Governor at his last visit to Benares in July 1897 sanctioned Rs. 5,000 for the help of the weavers and Rs. 10,000 was received from the Provincial Committee for the same purpose. A meeting of the Local Committee was called on the 6th August 1897, and it was resolved that a sub-committee be formed for the purpose of examining and paying for the clothes made by the weavers holding tickets issued by the Relief Committee. The following were nominated members of the Sub-Committee: (1) Saiyid Ali Naqi, Deputy Collector; (2) Hafiz Muhammad Ahsan; (3) S. Habib Ahmad. Lists were formed and tickets issued to the deserving *julahas*. Every such ticketholder was entitled to bring three *dhotis* every week. Advances were made to 948 weavers, amounting to Rs. 1,422, in order to aid them in purchasing materials for weaving *dhotis*. The sub-committee began to purchase *dhotis* woven by the ticketholding weavers at the market rate on every Sunday and Monday. The advances were paid from the Government money. This process of relieving weavers went on for three months until the 31st October 1897, when it was closed. In the final meeting of the 16th November 1897, it was resolved that the *dhotis* in stock be distributed gratuitously amongst the poor in the city and in the district. The distribution of *dhotis* is at present in progress. Three thousand seven hundred and twenty-two *dhotis* have already been sent to other districts.

Relief operations have now been closed and the balance of Rs. 3,000 has already been returned to the Provincial Committee.

R. P. DEWHURST, C.S.

23.—MIRZAPUR.

[No report received from Mirzapur up to 24th January 1898.]

24.—JAUNPUR.

Chairman's letter
no. ⁵²⁶~~VII-61~~, dated 10th
January 1898.
Receipt no. 1365.

THE district is a permanently settled one, and has hitherto been singularly free from actual famine. The area is well and carefully cultivated, and wells abound, so that in the greater portion of the district two crops are grown in the year. To this there are two tracts which form marked exceptions, a part of the Machhlishahr tahsil to the west on the borders of Allahabad and the whole of the northern and eastern half of the Kutáhan tahsil bordering on Sultápur and Azamgarh. These are purely rice tracts dependent entirely on the rainfall, and it was in these parts mainly that distress last year deepened into famine.

As a rule people remain steadily in their villages cultivating the adjacent land, though a few members of the family may occasionally go in search of employment. Some of the *julahas* have gone to Bombay for work in the mills, syees leave the district and are found all over India, and a certain number find their way to Calcutta and Assam in search of employment. Most of these, however, come from the Mariáhu tahsil, which was less affected than the rest of the district.

The failure of the crops in the autumn of 1896 would not probably have had such serious results were it not that this season came as an exceptionally bad one after a succession of inferior harvests. The autumn crops of 1893 were good. The spring crops of 1894 were injured by heavy and untimely falls of rain in January and February, so that the yield was very light. The *kharif* of 1894 was ruined by excessive rain, and in October high floods occurred in the Gumti, Sai, and other rivers, which swept away all the crops and destroyed villages along the banks and laid about one-sixth of the Jaunpur city in ruins. The result of this heavy and continued rain was that the land could not be properly prepared for the spring sowings, and the *rabi* of 1895 was but a poor one. The autumn rains of 1895 were deficient; and though sufficient for the Indian-corn, caused a certain amount of injury to the late rice. The spring crops of 1896 were fairly good, and the district was looking forward to better times when the rains of 1896 set in. These rains set in badly. The falls were very partial and deficient in quantity and after August ceased entirely. In many places not enough fell to enable the land even to be ploughed, and the result

was that in the rice tracts mentioned above either none could be planted at all, or what was planted dried up before it flowered.

The average rainfall is shown of the four years in the following table :—

Year.							Average rainfall in the district.
1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	50.65
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	72.31
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	39.84
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.41

The yield from the crops during the last four years is given below. The figures shown represent the outturn in annas :—

Kharif crops.

Year.			Rice.	Maize.	Juár.	Bájra	Urd and mung.	Sáwan	Marua.	Kodon.	Yl.	Indigo.	Mothia.
1894	...	...	14	11	4	4	10	15	15	15	4	12	3
1895	...	...	12	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
1896	...	...	3	10	3	4	7	9	11	7	6	15	5
1897	...	...	14	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13

Rabi crops.

Year.	Sugarcane.	Arhar.	Wheat.	Barley.	Peas.	Gram.	Mustard.	Linseed.	Cotton.	Masur.	
1894	...	13	12	10	7	11	13	4	8	9	11
1895	...	12	10	7	6	14	8	5	4	10	9
1896	...	10	16	12	14	16	12	16	12	13	16
1897	...	6	6	10	10	6	6	7	7	5	8

While the condition of the crops began to give cause for grave anxiety by the end of July, the first signs of actual distress began to show themselves in September, when the number of half-starved badly-clothed women and children increased rapidly in Jaunpur city, and it was found that these people were coming in from the neighbouring rice tracts of this and the Azamgarh districts. A certain amount of private subscription was raised; and this, supplemented by a grant from the municipality, enabled some earthwork on the fort in the city to be started, which afforded some relief. In spite, however, of the small pittance that was given for a day's work, the numbers increased so rapidly that it soon became a possible source of danger to the safety and health of the city. The District Board stepped in early in October, and started regular test relief works near the Sadar and in the north of Kutáhan, and these in due course were taken over by Government as regular relief works. From the very commencement of the distress some of the more charitable inhabitants of the district contributed sums of money for the relief of distress; but it was not till 16th February 1897 that a formal public meeting was held at the Town Hall in Jaunpur under the presidency of the Commissioner of the division and a committee appointed with the Collector as Chairman for the administration of any money that might be collected. It was this committee with branches at each tahsil, that administered the charitable relief funds when they were received from the Provincial Committee. Until help was received from the Famine Fund, only a comparatively small amount was at the disposal of the committee, but this was spent in providing the needy with clothing and doles for food.

On the receipt of the large contribution from the Famine Fund, the relief afforded was extended throughout the district, the agency employed in the rural tracts being the ordinary Government agency of patwáris, while in towns the distribution was entrusted to a few of the leading inhabitants, and in the city their efforts were supplemented by aid afforded by the Zanana Mission ladies.

In addition to direct help afforded by money doles to persons who could not come under Government relief, clothing was provided and milk was sent to the poor-houses for distribution to the children and the sick.

The total expenditure in this district has been Rs. 98,056-12-10, as follows :—

				Rs.	a.	p.
<i>Object I.</i> —(1) Clothing	...	...	...	874	0	0
(2) Milk	...	...	...	628	7	2
(3) Medicines, &c.	...	...	...	212	5	9
(4) Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3	7	0
<i>Object III.</i> —Food	...	...	...	29,100	4	5
<i>Object IV.</i> —Advances to agriculturists	...	...	...	66,906	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	332	4	6
Total				98,056	12	10

During the hot weather preparations were made for the distribution of the money that was promised for the purchase of seed and cattle. Rough lists were drawn up by the patwáris and subsequently checked by the kanúngos, tahsildárs, and officers in charge of subdivisions. The actual work of distribution was carried out in June by the Subdivisional Officers themselves and for the Sadr tahsil by the Collector. All were told whence the money had come and that it was a free gift to them from the people of England and other countries who had heard of their distress. The fact that it was a free gift was naturally the part that most interested the recipients; and though they did not display much outward signs of gratitude at the time, yet this was only to be expected from the impassive character of the common people. There can, however, be no doubt that this munificent distribution of nearly three-fourths of a lakh has resented many persons from further difficulties and distress, and will long be remembered with grateful feelings. I need not say that some of the subordinate officials took advantage of this free distribution of money to endeavour to reap some advantage for themselves. It would be idle to deny that they succeeded in some cases; but a few were detected and promptly punished; and taking warning by this, many more restored all or part of their illicit gains.

With the fall of rain about the middle of June it was felt that the worst was passed; and though a break early in July caused some temporary anxiety, yet the rains then set in well, and from that time all that remained to do was to gradually contract the distribution of relief as the various crops ripened and the different parts of the district returned to their normal condition. By the middle of October all serious distress was at an end, and the relief of the remaining cases of poverty and distress was left to the operation of private charity as in other years.

With regard to help afforded, the services of Government officials and of many private persons have already been acknowledged by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor; but in addition to these I would specially call attention to the ready and valuable assistance afforded by the ladies in charge of the Zanana Mission, namely Miss Tulloch and Miss Price, who by their intimate acquaintance with the *parda-nashin* ladies in the city were able to give help to a class which it is usually so difficult to relieve efficiently. Bábu Radha Charan and Bábu Jwala Parshad, Probationary Deputy Collectors, were Secretaries to the Local Committee, and I have great pleasure in testifying to the zeal and care with which both gentlemen worked, and I am glad to be able to add that the official auditor has recently borne testimony to the care and accuracy with which they have kept the accounts.

H. W. W. REYNOLDS, C.S.

36.—GHAZIPUR

Honorary Secretary's
letter, dated 24th November
1897.

Receipt no. 1090.

No local organization existed in this district before. On the 8th February 1897 a public meeting was held presided over by Mr. R. E. Hamblin, C.S., Collector, which was attended by the principal residents of the district. A District Committee was formed as a branch of the Provincial Committee consisting of a President, 16 members, a Secretary and a Treasurer. A list of their names, the amount promised on the spot, the amount then collected, and the approximate amount of subscriptions then expected by the committee were reported to the Provincial Committee on the 26th February 1897.

2. It was not found necessary to open relief works in this district. The year ending 30th September 1897 was not a healthy one; deaths were not so numerous as in 1893-94 or 1894-95, but exceeded those in 1895-96 by only 473. This increased mortality occurred solely in the last three months of the year and was due to malarial fever; during the first nine months of 1896-97 the deaths were considerably less than in the first nine months of 1895-96. Government sent some quinine for free distribution, and the District Board has given more. During 1896-97 the death-rate was 24·98 per mille against 24·52 in 1895-96.

3. *State of crops grown.*—The areas sown and the estimated outturns of recent years are shown in the following table; 16 annas are taken as a normal outturn:—

Year.	<i>Kharif.</i>		<i>Rabi.</i>	
	Area in acres	Outturn.	Area in acres.	Outturn.
		As.		As.
1893-94	381,730	9	100,060	7
1894-95	352,885	5	411,724	7
1895-96	368,735	10	328,650	14
1896-97	338,577	8	303,773	14

During 1896-97 the rainfall was exceptionally scanty and was even worse than in 1895-96, and the consequence was that transplanted rice, which is a staple crop, suffered much and in parts of the district was a total failure. Deficient rain in September 1896 made prospects worse, and as there was no rain in October, much land had to be irrigated before sowing and a large number of *kachcha* wells had to be dug for the purpose. The prospects at the end of September 1896 were very gloomy, the early *kharif* had failed to a large extent, and the promise of the late *kharif* was still worse. Government distributed advances for wells, seed and bullocks and did all it could to better the condition of agriculturists. The amounts distributed were Rs. 6,400 for *kachcha* wells, and Government also imported carrot seed from England so as to increase the food supply. However the carrot crop turned out to be a failure, for the seed was received too late for suitable sowing, the year was a very bad one for the germination of carrot seed, and it was very difficult to persuade the people to take the seed. No relief works were found necessary. The Bengal and North-Western Railway were building 60 miles of railway through the district and the earth-work required provided much employment. Government further distributed Rs. 22,890 in *takavi* for permanent works of improvement, mostly *pakka* wells. Those who were unable to work were received in the municipal poorhouse which existed before the famine made its appearance; many of the inmates of the poorhouse were found to be residents of Azamgarh and other adjoining districts. The help given by Government was in suspension of Rs. 1,73,353-3-0 land revenue and *takavi* advances for purchase of seed, buckets, bullocks, wells, and tanks.

4. The only help given under object III-D from local subscriptions was to *parda-nashin* women. The distribution of the money doles was made through the agency of Municipal Commissioners, who took interest in this work, and also showed energy. I also at times went along with Municipal Commissioners from house to house to distribute doles to *parda-nashin* women.

5. *Economic condition of the district.*—No relief works were found necessary as the amount of indirect relief was sufficient. The pressure of high prices was, however, much felt. The district is under permanent settlement, and fixed-rate and occupancy tenants are not wanting in resource. In 1897 the outturn of the *kharif* has been good, being 16 to 17 annas, and the area is larger than the normal. The

rabi sowings promise excellently and prices are falling, and the good crops of this agricultural year should do much to restore prosperity.

6. In conclusion I am glad to say the clerical and account work relating to the fund was done in a very satisfactory manner by Babu Ragh Mohan Das, the Treasury Head Clerk, who had to do this work in addition to his own duties.

KASIM BEG CHAGTAI.

26.—BALLIA.

No report received.

BETWEEN the 1st April and 30th June 1897 subsidies amounting to Rs. 67-12-6 were made to orphanages for the support of 18 orphans.

During January, February, and March 1897, 205 respectable poor persons received doles of cooked food. The amount expended in this manner was Rs. 258-7-11.

Three hundred and forty cultivators received Rs. 1,137-11-6 for the purchase of seed.

27.—GORAKHPUR.

Collector's letter no. 615 VII, dated 25th November 1897.
Receipt no. 1101.

DISTRESS more or less acute prevailed throughout the district, though only the tahsils of Gorakhpur, Bangaon, Muta and part of Maharajganj were officially recognized as distressed. The remaining portion of the district, that is the tahsils of Deoria and Padrauna and the north and east of Maharajganj, was classed as under observation.

The area of the distressed tract and the tract under observation was respectively 2,630 and 1,950 square miles. The northern portion of the district is for the most part forest or land reclaimed from forest within the last fifty years. There are no big towns except Gorakhpur, and the population is necessarily agricultural. Their standard of civilization is not high. Rice, wheat, and barley are the staple crops. The *kharif* of 1896 failed, but the *rabi* of 1896-97 was good, and the recent *kharif* has been excellent.

2. Relief measures from private funds commenced here in August 1896. Early in that month the holding off of the rains had driven a large number of field labourers into the city of Gorakhpur in search of employment. Large numbers of the infirm and emaciated, whom private charity in their villages could no longer support, flocked to the city in search of food. Distress began to be acute, and Dr. Hoey, who was then Collector of the district, considered that immediate relief measures were necessary. He called a meeting of the principal native gentlemen of the city and succeeded in raising among them and the European residents of the station sufficient funds to open a poorhouse. Several of the wealthier zamindars contributed beams, bamboos, and thatching material, and a poorhouse and hospital were constructed a mile or so out of the city. The poorhouse was opened on the 28th of August and was maintained solely from private subscriptions till the 14th of November 1896, when it was taken over as a State institution.

3. About the same time a large number of homeless poor had found their way into the large town of Gaura-Barhaj on the south-east of the district. The well-to-do traders of the town with praiseworthy philanthropy raised a subscription for their relief. Rupees 1,400 was collected. To ensure judicious expenditure of these funds the Collector directed the Subdivisional officer of Deoria to proceed to Barhaj and open a poorhouse similar to the institution in Gorakhpur. A poorhouse was accordingly opened and maintained till the 11th October 1896, when it had to be closed for want of funds.

4. Several European and native landholders opened small relief works for the tenants on their estates, and one of them, Mr. G. T. Peppé, opened three kitchens, where cooked rations were twice a day distributed to children and others unable to work. These kitchens were maintained for about three months. All the measures for relief undertaken by private individuals were reported separately to the Government.

5. The first donation made to this district by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was Rs. 800, received through the Commissioner of the Division for distribution of clothing. How this amount was distributed has been detailed in the fortnightly returns and need not be shown here. When regular monthly donations were promised the Collector called two meetings which were attended by subdivisional officers, tahsildárs, and a number of influential landholders. The matters discussed at these meetings and the resolutions passed were duly reported to you, the copies of the proceedings being forwarded for your information under cover of this office No. ⁸⁰⁶ VII, dated 22nd March 1897.

At these meetings of the District Relief Committee, it was resolved that each subdivision and the city of Gorakhpur was to be a separate relief circle under the superintendence of the subdivisional officer, who was directed to form one or more sub-circles in each, selecting the members of sub-committees from among the members of the District and Local Boards. It was through these agencies that relief under objects I, II, and III was distributed. But all relief was distributed under the direct personal supervision of subdivisional officers, who also utilized the services of European zamindárs, who very kindly volunteered to help in the distribution of food and clothing.

6. In the city it was, however, found that the native gentlemen who had consented to serve on the relief committee were unequal to the task. The náib tahsildár of the sadr tahsíl was then deputed to superintend the distribution, and by going about daily with the two members of each ward into several of which the area had been divided, he contrived to have the doles paid in good time and the lists correctly maintained. Great help was also rendered by the Mission ladies stationed in Gorakhpur, through whom doles were made to a large number of *parda-nashin* and other respectable women whom we might not have been able otherwise to assist. The means adopted here of giving help through native and European landholders and the Mission ladies have, I consider, been eminently successful, and aid has, I am convinced, reached all it was intended to reach.

7. The gifts of money for the purchase of seed grain and plough-cattle were made with the utmost care. As a first step the Collector directed subdivisional officers to get from tahsildárs, complete lists of all tenants and petty zamindárs who had land but had neither credit nor money wherewith to obtain grain. These lists were then carefully revised at suitable centres in each tahsíl by the subdivisional officers sitting with a few of the more influential landholders and mahájans of the locality as assessors. After the list had been carefully revised and the holding of each tenant ascertained, the amount of money each was to receive was fixed with reference to the description of grain to be sown. By these means the allotments under this head were made to go as far as possible and numbers of cultivators were thus rescued from absolute ruin. As payments were made by subdivisional officers in person and no receipts or other formalities were demanded, each man received the full amount of his dole. The *khariif* crops have been excellent, so we may safely say that numbers of families who, without this aid would not have been able to sow a single acre, have not only been saved from absolute want, but have received a fresh start in life.

8. The clothing you sent us for distribution was distributed mostly to the respectable poor in the city through the agency of the Mission ladies. The eagerness with which these gifts were sought and the gratitude with which they were received, may be gathered from a note I find on the file from Miss Smith to the address of Dr. Hoey. This lady writes: "When we take clothes into the city hundreds crowd after us. As soon as possible we take refuge in a poor *zanána* and begin by giving to one or two of the inmates whom we know to be deserving. In the meantime numbers have gained an entrance to the house and are sitting in rows eager to receive something. We give to the most [des]titute looking ones and then proceed to another house in a different part of the city. A good share of the clothing has been bestowed on very

poor *parda-nashin* women and their children, whose sufferings can only be known to few. The other recipients were chiefly people who owing to ill-health or age are unable to earn anything. All who received seemed in sore need of something to wear and we have seen many sad, worn faces radiant with joy and gratitude. The children were delighted with the bright-coloured frocks, and they expressed genuine pleasure and thankfulness."

9. The belts, jerseys, condensed milk and Mellin's Food received from your committee were made over to the Civil Surgeon. The condensed milk and food were used by him in the poorhouse hospitals and orphanage. The belts and jerseys he proposes to issue during the cold weather to deserving patients in the local hospitals. They came too late in the season to be used in poorhouses.

10. The contraction of relief operations began in the end of August 1897. Village relief lists and poorhouses were weeded and preparations made for relieving poorhouse inmates at their homes. Poorhouses were closed as Government institutions on the 15th September 1897, but remained open under private management for some time longer. Though all regular relief has closed there are still a few inmates in the casual ward, which was opened after the Government poorhouse closed for the care of the sick and homeless till arrangements could be made for their removal to their villages. The few remaining are still too ill and weak to be moved, but all will, I trust, be sent to their homes in a day or two. I have addressed you separately on the subject of the expenditure incurred on these and on the orphans still on our hands.

D. L. JOHNSTON, C. S.

28.—BASTI.

Collector's letter no.
808
XXIII-82 dated 17th
November 1897.
Receipt no. 1035.

THE total area of the Basti district is 2,796 square miles. Of this the affected area was 1,100 square miles; but after the *rabi* harvest, its sphere was reduced to 431 square miles. The district of Basti borders on Nepal territory and its northern portions were till comparatively recent times covered to a great extent by forest and marshes, and consequently were very unhealthy. However, there is now hardly any forest left. The climate in the northern portions, though it does not usually suit natives coming from drier tracts of India, is yet very much less insalubrious than it used to be in the olden days.

This district produces large quantities of rice, of which there are two main classes—the early rice, which is the staple food of the people; and the late one, which is the more valuable, and which even in ordinary years is exported to a considerable extent. In the northern tracts of this district, rice is decidedly the principal crop. Wheat is largely grown in the south.

The population of the district is very large, and the comparative number of labourers is considerable, as the bráhmín and rájpút cultivators are forbidden by custom to drive the plough and labourers perforce must take their place in the field. Hence a large proportion of the population must require relief in a year of scarcity. In this district, there have been several scarcities; but there has never been what is really meant by a famine. Water is near the surface and a year which does not suit the rice crop will usually suit the *rabi* and will often suit the cane. It is therefore not probable that in any year the loss all round, taking all crops into consideration, will exceed eight annas.

The causes which led to the late scarcity may be traced (1) in the deficient rainfall and (2) to high prices. The first was due to the dispensation of Providence; but the second was not only caused by the partial failure of *kharif* of 1896, but other factors also had a direct bearing on prices of food grains in this district. The rains in 1896 began in June, and nearly to the end of July the *kharif* promised well. About the middle of that month a break set in, and it lasted till about the middle of August, and this caused much injury to the early rice. Good rain fell

towards the end of August; but then the monsoon practically ended, though there were slight showers in the beginning of September. However, these showers were insufficient, and there was no rainfall in October. Things then looked very gloomy, and it appeared that the partial failure of the *kharif* would be followed by an insufficient *rabi*, but rain fell in the end of November, and this was sufficient for *rabi* sowings.

The produce of the *kharif* is given in the following table :—

Crops.					1896.	Remarks.
					Annas.	
Rice (<i>oshan</i>)	6	20 annas denote a full bumper crop.
Do. (<i>jarhan</i>)	...	...	...	...	4
Indian corn	...	...	...	...	9
Juar	...	...	...	...	2
Bajra	...	...	...	...	2
Urd, mung, and moth	...	...	...	...	6
Mandua and kodan	...	...	...	...	9
Sawan and kakun	9	

The following statement shows the produce of the *rabi* which followed the *kharif* of 1896 :—

Crops.					1897.	Remarks.
					Annas.	
Sugarcane	15	20 annas denote a full bumper crop.
Arhar	...	...	...	...	16
Wheat	...	...	...	...	18
Barley	...	...	...	...	16
Peas and gram	...	...	...	...	13—17
Rapeseed	...	...	...	...	15
Linseed	...	...	...	...	16
Masur	...	...	...	...	14

It will not be out of place to note that on account of the bumper crops in *rabi* the exports amounted to 3,30,500 maunds from 1st April to 30th September 1897. The *rabi* did certainly compensate to an appreciable extent for the loss to the *kharif* crops in most parts of the district. Some villages and traets did not pull through owing to their having a small *rabi* area under cultivation, such for instance as the *jarhan* traets of tahsils Domariaganj and Khalilabad. The *rabi* produce was harvested at an unusually early time, and this was a great blessing. It was practically all harvested by the end of March. So long as the harvesting was going on labourers found employment; but once it was finished, distress began to show itself again, and on account of large exports prices ran high. The agricultural population is very large in proportion to the people of other professions. The number of unskilled non-agricultural labourers is not large. In the two northern tahsils of Domariaganj and Bansi, the pressure of population on the cultivated area is comparatively greater than in other tahsils of the district. Omitting these tahsils I find that in Basti the incidence of the total population on the cultivated area is about 1,000 per square mile. Hence there is probably a larger proportion of the population likely to look for and require help in a year of scarcity not amounting to actual famine. The chief occupation of the population is agriculture, and they do not recognise that this district is over-crowded, and that they must go to a distance to earn a living; but as a rule they will not leave their homes even for a time for employment elsewhere. In fact the agricultural operations keep them engaged throughout the year to a more or less extent. A very small number of landless labourers or homeless vagrants or beggars may have gone over into Bengal or other neighbouring districts; but there was no general emigration on account of distress. No reports were, however, received from any place of any large body of men leaving their homes in search of employment. In fact the measures taken for the relief of the needy were so timed and of such a nature, that it was hardly possible that people who have homes could emigrate.

From the middle of June 1897 rain began to fall sufficiently to cause a renewal of agricultural operations and a large area of early rice and other *kharif* crops was

sown before the middle of July; and every day persons in poorhouses and on works commenced leaving them, and by the end of August 1897 there was practically no distress in this district.

Early in August 1896, when it was found that the rains had ceased and the crops were withering, the beggars of the district commenced dropping one by one into towns and villages with big bázárs. The doors of charity too did not allow such free access as in years of bumper harvests, and zamíndárs and other charitable persons could not by their generosity support all who were thrown out of employment. A meeting of the *raïses* was convened on 13th August 1896 in the Colvin Hall, and it was in the interests of humanity as well as of sanitation resolved to open a poorhouse at the Sadar, and subscriptions for this purpose were raised. A poorhouse was opened from 15th August 1896, and the inmates thereof were fed entirely from the subscription money up to 11th November 1896, when it was turned into a Government institution; but still a portion of the expense was met from private money. In the other three tahsils—viz. Domariaganj, Harria, and Khalilabad—poorhouses were opened at the cost of Government from 1st December 1896, and like the Sadar poorhouse, the expenses from Government money were supplemented by private subscription.

At the end of December it was found that there were a number of persons in the affected tracts who on account of infirmity, caste or sentiment would not go to poorhouses or on the works, and hence the necessity for giving gratuitous relief outside the poorhouse became incumbent on us; and on 8th of January 1897 steps were taken to give this form of relief at the cost of the State, and this was supplemented by private money. The aid hitherto given to poorhouses from private funds was then stopped because the private subscriptions locally raised was not sufficient to meet the expenses of both forms of relief. On receipt of your letter No. 9, dated 5th February 1897, a committee was formed on 22nd February 1897, as already reported. The distressed portion of the district was divided into 16 relief circles for the proper distribution of gratuitous relief. In order to avoid the two agencies, viz. gratuitous relief from State funds and from Charitable Committee money, overlapping each other, first lists were made by patwáris and kanúngos with the help of local respectable zamíndárs. Then in all places with more than 20 needy, relief was given from the Fund of the Charitable Committee through local members, and in other places kanungos and patwáris made payments from Government funds. Every possible care was taken by subdivisional officers to see that the two agencies did not clash with and overlap each other. The local and personal knowledge of the patwáris and zamíndárs was of much help in preventing the recipients from taking the dole from the new different set of distributors. In this district gratuitous relief outside the poorhouse from Government funds and from money supplied by the Charitable Committee was commenced almost at the same time. The allotments made by you from time to time and the local subscriptions were utilized in supplementing Government funds.

The greatest boon—and one which has left a lasting impression on the people—was the free distribution of money amongst agriculturists. The amount of this free gift for this district was Rs. 40,000, and I cannot help quoting what I wrote in reference to it demi-officially to Mr. Stoker, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh:—

“ On the 12th of May 1897 a meeting was held in the District Board's office, at which members of all local committees for distribution of charitable relief were present, and it was after careful consideration, resolved that first of all lists be prepared from patwáris' records of all agriculturists whose fields lay fallow in the preceding *kharif* and *rabi* harvests. This having been done, the tahsildars and kanúngos were told to check these lists by inquiry from village to village, and amend the patwáris' lists in conjunction with the advice and knowledge of local zamíndárs. When this

was done the list was sent to the subdivisional officer, who was further told himself to check as many entries of the amended list as he could by an unwearying inquiry from village to village and be guided to some extent by respectable local zamíndárs in the selection of objects of charity, and especially in determining to what extent the free gift was to be allowed to each person. The rate at which distribution for seed was to be made was Rs. 4 per pakka bígha and Rs. 10 were generally allowed for each bullock. A man who had 5 bíghas or less of land lying uncultivated was given one bullock, and over this area he was given two bullocks. All along I was keeping a direct check on the work of the subdivisional officers. Each subdivisional officer had fixed two or three centres in his tahsíl, where he distributed the money on dates fixed and notified beforehand. The subdivisional officers went punctually to the fixed centres on notified dates, and in presence of zamíndárs and the kanúngo and patwári made the distribution punctually. The recipients were invariably identified by the local zamíndárs and the patwári before payment was made to them.

The greatest possible care was taken to see that the munificent gift of the British public was utilized on the object for which it was intended, and I think that my subdivisional officers have attained this object. It was explained and published that the free gift was not recoverable, but was given only that agriculturists who had lost their status as such on account of the scarcity be restored to their former position. It was also seen as far as possible that that personage in a rural community, viz. the village patwari, did not take his portion from the tenants who received this gift. This was a matter which in being secured gave some difficulty, as the influence of the patwari in this backward district is so large and the awe in which he is held by agriculturists so great, that the greatest precaution had to be taken to see that this habitual receiver of customary dues from villages did not by some contrivance or other make the free gift also to come in the category of his so-called time-honored dues. All distribution was finished by 31st May 1897, and I can say that we have been able to restore to their original position those who had lost their all in this struggle, and we have given them a fresh start in life and many agriculturists who would otherwise have become labourers have been by this free gift enabled to continue in their old occupation of tilling the soil.

In the way described above we have relieved under object IV 8,828 persons at an expenditure of Rs. 40,000. Of this sum Rs. 29,044 have been given for seed, Rs. 10,822 for cattle, and Rs. 134 to artizans for tools. The greatest want in this district was for seed, and hence we have spent more money on this object than on any others. The cattle have thriven wonderfully well in spite of partial failure of rains; but this district is full of small streams and tiny rivers and big lakes, and hence there was no dearth of pasturage, and there was no sickness amongst the cattle. I can hardly express in fitting terms the good effect of this free gift either from a political or from an administrative point of view.

On every side villagers have nothing but expressions of heartfelt gratitude for this most timely aid. In the beginning they could not realize that the money given to them would not be taken back; but by degrees they did come to understand the true object of this special form of charity, and then in all the earnestness of true admiration, they blessed the people that came to their rescue and the sovereign that rules over them. Local bards gave vent to their poetical feelings, and many are the verses which form the subject-matter of this auspicious relief. I enclose a copy of one of the best, and cannot help quoting the following, which has passed from mouth to mouth :—

Muft takávi aisi bantí,
Bij, bail dono ko sai ;
Jug jug jio mori Sarkár ;
Jekre adhín sagrí sansár.

It may be translated as follows:—

Outright advances so they give,
For oxen and for seed withal,
From ago to age, my rulers, live,
To whom the whole round world is thrall!

It is wonderful that no sinister rumours have got abroad in reference to this gift. All that people generally say is that it has come from Mother Victoria. They do not realize that Mother Victoria's British subjects have subscribed for this most munificent gift. In some villages it has been rumoured that the Government has made this free gift on completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign. It was a sight worth seeing when the distribution of the money was being made. Women with infants in their arms, young men with anxious looks about them, and the infirm and weak with *lathis* to support them, all sat anxiously watching the face of the distributing officer. As each person got his share he walked off with thoughts which really breathed peace on earth and good will to men. This action of the British Government has shown to people that the *Sarkar* is a real *má báp*,* and I do not exaggerate when I say that since the commencement of British Government, nothing has fetched the hearts of people more than this action of charity which along with it has carried love, and these both have gone home to the grateful and affectionate feelings of people in general and the poor and illiterate in particular.

In India it is considered humiliating by high caste rājputs and even by cultivating brāhmins to take alms, and these would rather die than accept charity; but in the present case as the gift came from the ruling race, and was distributed through Government officers of high rank and position, no sense of humiliation was felt even by the high caste rājputs. It is not too much to say that the highest ideal of charity was realized in the present distribution, and I can say that if love is happiness, charity is success.

The gratuitous relief given outside poorhouses from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund continued up to the end of September, and after that period as the relief from Government money was stopped, help from this Fund was no longer given. The Basti poorhouse which ceased to be a Government institution in the end of August was turned into a casual ward, and its expenses were met from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. It was maintained to receive urgent cases. It has now been closed from 6th November 1897.

The following gentlemen did specially good service during the time the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was in operation in the district:—Messrs. W. C. Peppé and F. Bridgman and Munshi Avadh Behari Lal, Secretary. Bábu Hub Lal, Honorary Accountant, and Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar, Assistant Honorary Accountant, were in charge of the accounts, and at no small trouble forwarded all returns correctly and punctually.

F. S. P. SWANN, C.S.

29.—AZAMGARH.

Collector's Letter no.
592
XIII—26, dated 12th
December 1897.
Receipt no. 1236.

THE area officially declared as distressed was 1,130 square miles with a population of 914,000 souls; while the area under observation was 1,018 square miles with a population of 815,085. Famine was officially declared in tahsils Azamgarh, Deogaon, and Muhammadabad.

2. Included in the Gogra-Ganges Doab, and therefore a part of the great Gangetic plain, the surface of the Azamgarh district is generally even, except where it is broken by the deep cut rivers and streams that carry off the natural drainage. Most of the streams have a running body of water only in the rains.

Physical conditions. The nature and relative importance of the crops grown, &c.

* Father and mother.

3. Considered with reference to the crop-bearing capacities the soils of the district may be divided into two great classes; the rice lands and those bearing spring and other crops (*harjins*). In the first is included the land on which rice alone is the staple crop; to the second belongs that used for early autumn, sugarcane, and winter crops. There is some rice land which is treated as *harjins* land; but it consists of small patches lying round little hollows within the *harjins* area or of fields where the two classes of land meet. But as a rule, rice land is treated as a distinct class of land from the better raised tract upon which other crops are raised. Within the rice area the quality of the land varies with the natural character of the soil and the water supply. Clean clays yield the best crops, but the stickiness of one of them (*karail*) makes the planting out of the crop a somewhat arduous operation. The inferior rice soils are those which are mixed with red salt, and being generally on high level suffer from want of water. In the *harjins* area the distinction which the people draw is between (a) the land round and between the hamlets, which receives regularly the best labour and manure available and is called *per*, and (b) that which consists of the outlying fields and is called *palo*.

4. The district at present has no canals. The present sources of irrigation are first streams, lakes, swamps, ponds, and artificial tanks; and secondly wells of both kinds, masonry and earthen. The reservoirs frequently fail when the rainfall is deficient and their place cannot be efficiently taken by temporary wells. Well water is only used when tank water is not available. Although the former is held to be more beneficial to spring crops and sugarcane than tank water, yet well irrigation is considerably more expensive.

5. An excessive rainfall though perhaps less disastrous to the agriculturists than a defective one, is also very unfavourable. Mr. Reid, writing in April 1877, stated that during one hundred years, so far as it had been ascertained, there had been no such calamity as is generally understood by a famine or a season in which the general population is decimated by starvation or is forced to wander from home in search of food. Of minor droughts which stopped short of actual famine, there is, however, some memory among the people. In some places the famine of 1782-83 is still remembered and at least in one town (Man) deaths from starvation took place. Mirza Ata Beg was Chakladar of Azamgarh at the time, and a mosque and wells in the little town of Kopaganj are pointed out, which he had made in order to give employment to the poor of the place. But the general population did not die from starvation, and wheat sold in the Kopaganj market at 14 seers for the rupee; an unprecedented rate for those days doubtless, but not indicative of absolute dearth. Regarding the year 1837-38 there seems to be no memory, and wheat is said to have sold at 20 seers for the rupee. Since then there have been years of scarcity, but there has been no famine properly so called. In October 1869 the price of wheat rose to 11 seers for the rupee and in November 1877 to 10 seers 15 chataks.

6. The only emigration has been to the colonies from the lowest or labouring classes.

7. Coming more particularly to the distressed tahsils, Azamgarh is the headquarters tahsil of the district. The whole forms the west centre of the district. The chief drainage of the tract is from north-west to south-east—the direction of the two main streams which traverse it, the Tons and Mangai. The chief products are rice, spring crops, sugarcane, indigo, and garden crops.

8. Deegaon is the southern tahsil of the district. The chief drainage lies from north-west to south-east. The country is a series of narrow parallel strips divided from each other by lines of swamps which have their outlets in *nalas* or deep cut channels. These contain a running stream only in the rainy season. The swamps during that season spread over considerable areas, and so much of the land as comes within their influence without being entirely submerged, is sown with rice.

9. Muhammadabad is the name of the south-eastern tahsil of the district. A glance at the map will show that there are swamps in most parts of the tahsil which, although they wholly or in great part dry up between October and June, spread out in the rains into large temporary lakes. Spring crops and rice are the main products.

10. The *rabi* harvest of 1893-94 was a poor one; the *kharif* of 1894-95 was seriously damaged by excessive rains and terminated in floods which submerged very many cultivated acres; the *rabi* of the same year was sown late in ground imperfectly ploughed and often surcharged with moisture: consequently it yielded a remarkably poor outturn. The sugarcane was equally poor. A bumper indigo crop and excellent millet crops then came to the aid of the district; but the moderation of the rains of 1895-96 and their early cessation very seriously impaired the outturn of the *jarhan* or transplanted rice, the most important crop in the district to the most needy classes of the people. The *rabi* harvest of 1895-96 was fair only, and the sugarcane disappointed expectations. The harvest of the earlier years of this decade were as a rule below the average.

11. The failure of the *kharif* crops of the year 1896 found Azamgarh with a small poorhouse maintained by private charity, attached to the Sadar Dispensary under the management of the Civil Surgeon. It was started in July 1895 and did good service at the commencement of the period of widespread distress in forming a nucleus for relief measures. The institution was most useful during the months of August and September 1896, but towards the middle of September it became overcrowded and a system of outdoor relief was started. This also soon proved inadequate and a regular poorhouse constructed on the lines laid down in the Famine Code was established at headquarters early in October 1896. The cost of its construction and maintenance during the month of October was borne by private charity. It subsequently became a Government institution. On the 1st of October 1896 its monthly population averaged about 200. On the 22nd of that month a meeting was held in the Town Hall at which the then Collector invited special donations. Donations amounting to Rs. 5,185 were promised and were almost without exception afterwards paid. Further subscriptions, too, were promised. The donors of the largest amounts were—

	Rs.
Mr. H. V. Lovett, Collector	1,000
„ H. D. Griffin, District Judge	500
Bābu Damodar Das	1,000
„ Mahadeo Prasad Athwaria	500

12. From 1st October 1896 to February the 15th 1897 the following expenditure was defrayed by this private Fund:—

	Rs.	Number relieved.
On object I	1,937	9,149
Ditto II	50	50
Ditto III	664	5,261
Miscellaneous	314	...

On February the 16th Rs. 500 were received from the Provincial Charitable Relief Committee through the Commissioner. Thenceforward the old district Charitable Relief Fund became amalgamated with the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

13. Relief from this fund was given to *parda-nashin* women, orphans, sick and disabled persons, and generally no work was rendered by the recipients in return for the relief received. Care was taken that the Government relief agency and the Charitable Relief agency though keeping close touch did not overlap each other. While the relief from the Government funds was administered through the agency of *kanungos* and *patwaris* under the supervision of relief officers, the money

of the Charitable Relief Fund was distributed only by Covenanted or Gazetted officers or tahsildars personally, by European gentlemen resident in the district or by members of the municipal Board. Lists in each case were submitted to the Collector either before or after distribution of relief for approval. The system of reporting deserving cases by closed letters to the Collector was also introduced, by which those respectable poor persons and *parda-nashin* women were relieved who could not be reached by Government agency. Clothing was supplied from the private Charitable Relief Fund to many of these persons who were only fed out of the Government funds. In the majority of cases the Government aid was supplemented only in this form. A large portion of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund was also distributed to assist people in purchasing seed and cattle.

14. Two hundred belts and warm vests were received from the Provincial Committee and were distributed among the district poorhouses, as also were 418 veils or *chaddars*, 30 flannelette skirts, and 895 cotton skirts made in England, which have for the most part been distributed. I find that some are still in stock and will see to their proper disposal.

15. A Relief Fund Committee with sub-committees for each tahsil was appointed on the 7th of December, and held several meetings. Some of the members rendered considerable assistance, notably the members belonging to the Azamgarh Municipality. In this connection Mr. Lovett, the then Collector, has particularly mentioned Bábu Baldeo Narain Singh, Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner, Mirza Muhammad Salim, municipal member, Bábu Brij Behari Lal, municipal member, Sheikh Karim Bakhs, municipal member, and Rija Salamat Ali Shah, municipal member, Honorary Magistrate and member for tahsil Deogaon. Mr. Lovett has also mentioned Bábu Sheodisht Narain Singh of Mau, member for the Muhammadabad tahsil. Mr. Lovett has also recommended Messrs. A. H. Cooper and T. Martin for the thanks of Government and has acknowledged the services rendered by Miss Sturmer and Mr. Dodsworth.

16. The principal forms of relief have been noted above. It has also been noted what official and private agency was employed to ensure that suitable relief was brought within the reach of every deserving person, whom the Government aid could not reach or in whose case it was necessary to supplement the Government aid or who stood in need of relief otherwise.

17. The following instructions issued by Mr. Lovett regarding the preparation of lists for the distribution of object IV money were generally observed.

- (1) The grants will be free gifts for purchases of seed and cattle and will be distributed at headquarters by the Collector or some gazetted officer.
- (2) Each supervising relief officer must prepare lists of persons whom he can certify to be deserving. Each recipient must be told to attend before the Collector and the date fixed for distribution.
- (3) Petty zamindars who are in a very impoverished condition may be recommended for grants.
- (4) Each supervising relief officer will do well to select the worst off villages in his tahsil and allot his money to them.
- (5) It is desirable that the recommendations made be tested by either the tahsildar or the supervising relief officer himself, the latter if possible.

18. Both poorhouses and gratuitous relief, as Mr. Lovett remarks in one of his reports, were at first viewed with suspicion by some of the people. The former were said to be *quasi-jails*, while the latter was in some outlying villages believed to be a device of

Government for fattening persons as a preliminary step to squeezing oil out of their bodies. Poorhouses, however, soon won the trust of the people and did most excellent work.

19. The charitable relief operations in this district were finally closed on 31st October 1897. There is, however, still an orphanage with seven inmates, and the question of their disposal is under consideration.

E. ROGERS, C.S.

13. LUCKNOW CITY COMMITTEE.

Honorary Secretary's
letter dated 3rd December
1897.
Receipt no. 1187.

On the failure of the *kharif* crops of the year 1896 and consequent rise in the price of food grains, distress began to be felt in the city of Lucknow about the beginning of the month of October 1896. In order to relieve the distress a public meeting was called by some of the leading citizens. Under the auspices of Mr. J. Mackintosh, C.S., the then Divisional Commissioner, Mr. P. Gray, C.S., Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. L. C. Porter, C.S., City Magistrate, the meeting was held in the Kaisarbagh Baradari on the 15th October 1896. Mr. J. S. Mackintosh, C.S., occupied the chair. It was resolved at the meeting that donations and subscriptions be asked for from the public for providing relief to *parda-nashin* women and other deserving persons affected by the famine, who were unable to go to the poorhouse or do any relief work; that a managing committee of certain gentlemen with power to add to their number be formed to collect donations and subscriptions, and to control the distribution of the charity among persons who deserved relief; and that the gentlemen present and the public be requested to subscribe money for the above purpose. Mr. Percy Gray, C.S., was appointed President and Mr. L. C. Porter, C.S., Vice-President, and Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram, Honorary Secretary. The gentlemen present promised donations to the amount of Rs. 5,225, and it was further announced that the Husenabad and Shah Najaf endowments had already given Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 5,000 respectively.

A meeting of the Managing Committee was held on the 17th October 1896, and it was resolved that an executive committee of 13 gentlemen be formed to carry on the work of preparing lists and distributing the money. Preparation of the list of persons deserving charity was taken in hand.

On the 3rd November 1896 His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh was pleased to call a conference of the members of the Municipal Board of Lucknow at Government House, with the object of being informed of the prospects and condition of the city. His Honour was informed of the method according to which the members of the Municipal Board intended to carry on the work of relieving persons in distress, and he was pleased to announce that the Government would place Rs. 15,000 at the disposal of the Lucknow Famine Relief Committee as the first instalment, and that the amount would be increased later on when the distress became acute.

With the subscriptions and donations given and promised by the public and the promise of Government support the committee began to prepare the list of persons deserving relief. The city was divided into six circles according to the different municipal wards and these circles were divided into blocks according to the number of police posts. The members of the Executive Committee and other gentlemen were requested to prepare the lists of persons deserving charitable relief very carefully after house to house visitation. These lists were ready by the end of November 1896. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the first December 1896, and in pursuance of a resolution passed at that meeting the work of distribution was commenced forthwith.

When operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund commenced in India, the Lucknow Committee was brought under the North-Western Provinces.

and Oudh Branch of the said Fund, and the first contribution from the said Fund was received in March 1897.

The maximum amount of dole to be given to an adult person was fixed by the committee at Rs. 2, and the maximum allowed to a child was 8 annas a month. In fixing the amount of monthly charity to be given to individuals of families, their existing means of income (if they had any) were taken into consideration, and the amount to be given to such individuals or families was so fixed as to supplement their means of support.

The great majority of the recipients of these doles of charity were *parda-nashin* females and respectable males, who on account of their physical infirmities or caste prejudices were not able to go to the Government relief works or to the poorhouses opened by Government. In some cases aid was also given to persons of inferior castes, who owing to their physical infirmity could not go to the relief works; but such instances were very rare. At first many persons refused to receive aid from the Fund, but when prices rose higher and they sold up the things they possessed they also became suppliants for charity. Applications for assistance used to be sent to the Deputy Commissioner, the City Magistrate and members in charge of distribution, and in some cases even to the Commissioner. The practice was to make over these applications to the members in charge of the blocks for distribution, and if on inquiry the case was found to be one really deserving of charity the names were brought on the distribution lists. The majority of the recipients of charity were Muhammadans, and among the Hindus, Brahmans and Kayasths formed the greater number. Among the Muhammadans there were many people who were *chikan* workers and embroiderers, as owing to the general distress the demand for such work had become less and the workers had been thrown out of employment. The number of applications for aid began to rise in January 1897, and it went on increasing till the month of March 1897.

Of the six different wards of the city the number of recipients of assistance considered with respect to population was highest in the Chauk, next to it came Daulatganj; then Saadatganj and Wazirganj. In the Ganeshtganj ward which includes the civil lines and the quarters of the city inhabited by Government and railway employes and the like the number was smaller as compared to its population. Husen-ganj ward, *i.e.* the portion of the city on the north of the river Gumti, being inhabited by traders and a *quasi*-rural class, contained a comparatively small number of persons who were brought on the distribution lists.

The number of persons (including males, females and children) relieved by this committee in the different months in the period during which its operations lasted was as follows :—

	Rs.
For the month of November 1896, distributed in December 1896	... 6,492
For the month of December 1896, distributed in January 1897	... 9,800
For the month of January 1897, distributed in February 1897	... 12,280
For the month of February 1897, distributed in March 1897	... 12,280
For the month of March 1897, distributed in April 1897	... 13,625
For the month of April 1897, distributed in May 1897	... 16,556
For the month of May 1897, distributed in June 1897	... 16,556
For the month of June 1897, distributed in July 1897	... 16,796
For the month of July 1897, distributed in August 1897	... 16,841
For the month of August 1897, distributed in September 1897	... 16,905
For the month of September 1897, distributed in October 1897	... 16,950
For the month of October 1897, distributed in October 1897	... 16,950

The total amount of subscriptions collected by the committee was Rs. 33,774-12-6, the amount received from Government was Rs. 66,000, from the Indian Famine Charitable Fund Rs. 1,25,800 and from miscellaneous receipts Rs. 15-12-3.

The amount spent in distribution and work connected with it was Rs. 2,25,590-2-6 including the sum of Rs. 753-7-3, which was made over to the King's Poorhouse under a resolution of the committee passed on the 5th November 1897.

The distribution lasted from December 1896 to October 1897, and the committee held 21 meetings during the time the operations lasted. In the month of January 1897 the distribution in the different blocks was interchanged among the members, but during the rest of the period it was generally done as follows:—

<i>Name of ward.</i>	<i>Name of member in charge of distribution.</i>
(1) Chauk ward	... B. Bishambhar Nath, Municipal Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate; Hakim Nazir Hasan Khan, Municipal Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate; B. Bhairon Parshad, Pleader and Municipal Commissioner; P. Shiam Narain, Municipal Commissioner; and B. Raghobar Dayal, retired Munsif.
(2) Saadatganj	... Rae Din Dayal, Municipal Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate; B. Ganga Parshad Varma, Municipal Commissioner.
(3) Ganeshganj	... B. Sanwal Das, Deputy Collector; Pt. Raghobar Dayal, Deputy Collector; M. Prag Narain Bhargava, Proprietor, Newal Kishore Press; and Nawab Mahdi Ali Khan, Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner.
(4) Wazirganj	... Honorable Rae Sri Ram Bahadur, Municipal Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate; Pt. Sheo Narain, Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner; N. Saiyid Muhammad Mahdi Ali Khan, Wasikadar; and Rae Girdhari Lal, retired Deputy Magistrate.
(5) Daulatganj	... M. Rahat Ali Khan, Secretary, Husenabad Endowment.
(6) Husenganj	... B. Sheo Parshad, Municipal Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate.

Beside the above gentlemen, Mrs. Marston of the Zanana Mission, the Civil Chaplain, Reverend Father Petronius, Roman Catholic Chaplain, and Reverend A. W. Newbould of the Presbyterian Church made monthly distribution. Mrs. Marston's distribution were among the zanana women, Muhammadans and Hindus. The distributions of the other three reverend gentlemen were among the Christian poor. Besides the members who carry on the work of distribution, I must bring to your notice the fact that M. Prag Narain Bhargava did all the printing works relating to the committee gratis.

SRI RAM.

32—LUCKNOW DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

Deputy Commissioner's letter no. 932, dated 3rd December 1897.
Receipt no. 1161.

An allotment of Rs. 900 was made through the Commissioner of the Division for the purchase of clothing previous to any direct remittance from the Provincial Committee. The remittances from the Provincial Committee amounted to Rs. 1,22,000, local subscriptions to Rs. 2,987-2-0, and the sum of Rs. 126-1-0 was received from the Honorary Secretary to the Jubilee Fund for the city of Lucknow, specially for the poorhouses. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,26,013-3-0.

2. Out of this sum, Rs. 10,288-15-1 was spent in extra diet, comforts, and clothing for the inmates of the poorhouses and for the poor in the villages; Rs. 377-10-0 on orphans; Rs. 6,420-2-0 in part support of *parda-nashin* and respectable poor in the district; Rs. 1,07,901-8-0 in advances for bullocks and seed

to the distressed tenantry; and Rs. 242-7-0 in office and printing expenses. The chief printing expenses were in connection with voucher books and *sanads* used in the advances made to the tenants. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,25,230-10-1. There was thus a balance of Rs. 782-8-11 in hand on the 31st October. Of this the sum of Rs. 657-8-11 has since been remitted to the Provincial Committee. The balance is in course of adjustment.

3. The numbers assisted, no person being counted more than once, were—

Under object	I	...	16,394
Ditto	II	...	average of 43
Ditto	III	...	4,973
Ditto	IV	...	16,320

4. The assistance thus afforded has very materially alleviated the distress of persons of all grades and rank in life. Many tenants who would otherwise have sunk to the position of field labourers have thus been enabled to retain their holdings.

P. GRAY, C.S.

THE entire district was recognised as distressed, and the distress was great in the following parganas: (1) Mohan Auras, (2) Gorinda Parsandan, (3) Jhalotar Ajgain, (4) Maurawan, (5) Asoha, (6) North Purwa, (7) Bangarmau, (8) Fatehpur Chaurasi, and (9) Sikandarpur.

33.—UNAO.

Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. 846, dated 10th
January 1897.
Receipt no. 1208.

2. The physical features are those of an ordinary plains district. The chief crops are—in the *kharif*: maize, rice, *juar*, and *bajra*; in the *rabi*: cereals and gram. The population is an agricultural one. There are no manufactures of any importance. The towns are small and dependent on agriculture. There is not even a grain mart.

3. The famine year was preceded by a cycle of bad seasons beginning from 1893. That year and 1894 were distinguished by excessive rainfall, especially the latter, during which much damage was done by flooding. The year 1895 was a dry one, and the *rabi* suffered in consequence. In 1896 the rain ceased at the end of September with the result that the whole of the rice crop was lost. Maize, and in some places *juar* was, however, saved and served to keep the people going till December, when famine was formally recognised. The famine proper lasted from 15th December 1896 to 1st October 1897, the distress reaching two maximum points in February and in the middle of June. The *rabi* was a short sown crop, and further suffered severely from high winds in February. Gram was an entire failure.

4. *Organization*.—In this district the administration of the charitable relief funds through committees was confined entirely to the towns. The Government measures were sufficient for ordinary needs in villages. The money allotted under object IV was distributed through the committees in the towns and by official agency in the villages. In the towns 13 sub-committees were organized. These were formed on the following dates:—In Unao on 1st December 1896; Harha, 7th January 1897; Maurawan, 10th February 1897; Purwa, 7th February 1897; Safipur, 3rd January 1897; Fatehpur, 21st January 1897; Bangarmau, 11th January 1897; Moradabad, 18th January 1897; Mohan, 8th January 1897; Neotani, 8th January 1897; Mianganj, 8th January 1897; Asiwan, 8th January 1897; and Newalganj, 23rd May 1897.

5. These committees were charged with the distribution of charitable relief under object III as well as of Government funds, Chapters V and X of the Famine Code. The principle followed was to debit Government with one-fourth of the daily doles in those cases where absolute want was being relieved. Some of the committees distributed cotton for spinning but the results were not encouraging. No works were undertaken. Towards the end of the famine a kitchen was opened on the Trunk Road and cooked food was distributed to *bona fide* wanderers. The sum spent in this way amounted to Rs. 234-8-6. I consider this a most suitable form of relief, and regret that it was not started sooner.

6. The only other form of relief was that under object IV. In the towns the committees distributed the funds allotted to them to artisans and non-agriculturists. In the villages lists were prepared by the patwaris and kanungos in consultation with the zamindars, and the money distributed in person by a gazetted officer. During the present cold season I have been gratified to find that money was invariably used for the purpose intended. In addition special relief under this head was given in many villages which were destroyed by fire. The number of village fires was unusually large; in many cases whole villages being entirely destroyed. The amount spent in this way amounted to Rs. 1,11,569-13-0.

7. Finally, I have great pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Provincial Committee the invaluable services rendered by the following gentlemen: Unao, Haji Amin-ullah, retired Deputy Collector; Bangarman, Chaudhri Mahendra Singh, Talúqdár; Mianganj, Sheikh Wassi-uz-zaman, Talúqdár; Maurawan, Lala Kidar Nath, Talúqdár; Purwa, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, Munsif. The invaluable services of the last-mentioned gentleman, who was Chairman of the Purwa Committee and also in charge of the poorhouse there, deserve the highest commendation.

A. B. BRUCE, C.S.

34.—RAE BAREILLY.

Deputy Commissioner's letter no. 588, dated 6th December 1897.
Receipt no. 1186.

Preliminary information.

Custom of leaving home for employment.

Harvests of previous years.

Organization of district system of relief.

(a) THE famine was prevalent throughout the whole district comprising an area of 1,752,000 acres and the population affected thereby was 1,037,000. The district is a purely agricultural one and contains no town with a population exceeding 10,000 persons. The district has in previous years been a great rice-producing district: consequently the failure of the rains in 1896 was an exceptional calamity. The *kharif* harvest of 1896 with the exception of early sown rice and the *til* crops, was an entire failure. The *rabi* of 1896-97 could not be sown except by artificial irrigation, and the total area sown was considerably below that of ordinary years.

There is no special custom prevalent in this district of persons leaving their homes for employment. All can in an ordinary year find employment on field labour.

The heavy rains of 1894 commenced about the middle of June and were excessive during the months of July and August. They caused considerable damage to the *kharif* crops. Owing to the bad state of the *kharif* some relief works were started by the District Board. The excessive moisture caused by the rains of December 1894 and January 1895 made the prospects of the *rabi* harvest very gloomy. Wheat, gram, *arhar*, and peas suffered from blight and rust, and their outturn was very much below the average. The rains of 1895-96 were constant in the earlier months, but suddenly stopped early in September. The rice harvest was fully up to the average, but *juar* and other millets suffered much from too much rains during the earlier months. The October and January rains failed altogether, but by constant irrigation from the wells and *jhils* the outturn of *rabi* was excellent. Oil-seeds gave the best yield that had been known for many a year; wheat and the earlier sown poppy were excellent. Gram and barley also did well where there was sufficient moisture. The mango crop was also a good one and did much to help the poorer classes; but *mahua* on the other hand, almost equally important in the district, failed altogether. On the whole the season was up to the average.

(b) The district was divided into sub-committees of which four were local and four tahsili committees with four poorhouses, one attached to each tahsili. The committees were formed on the 1st March 1897 and non-official agency was employed for the distribution of money received from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund. Before the formation of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund private subscriptions were raised for the relief of *parda-nashin* women of the district. The bulk of the money was paid away in the end of May and beginning of June with the object of providing cultivators with seed for the *kharif* sowing. At the same time large sums were given for the purchase of cattle. The moral effect of these gifts was very noticeable and the cultivators were enabled to sow the normal area of *kharif*.

(c) The items of receipt and expenditure are given in the statements already submitted. There is no special item which calls for any comments. For the proper distribution of relief the taluqdars and other gentlemen of the district were requested to furnish me with a list of persons in need of relief. On receipt of the lists relief was distributed and brought within reach of every needy person, especially under object IV.

Account of relief actually administered.

(d) There are no special items of receipt or expenditure not fully elucidated in the forms of accounts.

Mention of services and winding up of relief.

The large amounts expended under object IV were for the most part distributed by Deputy Collector Syed Raza Husain and Munshi Karanmat Husain, and by Tahsildars Munshi Jai Narain and Iftikhar Husain at the various headquarter tahsils. Under other objects the assistance of many persons was taken, among whom I would mention Munshi Golab Rai for Rae Baveli and Munshi Abdul Ghafur for Jais.

The relief operations were wound up on the 31st October 1897. A balance of Rs. 500-9-3 remained unexpended, and that was forwarded to the Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, in November.

A. M. W. SILAKESPEAR, C.S.

Out of 2,255 square miles, the area of the whole district, distress extended to 1,520 square miles with a population in round numbers of 703,000, but relief from charitable funds was also afforded to the poor residing outside the official "distressed area." The tract in question is a fertile plain intersected with rivers. This sums up the physical condition of the distressed area. There is no crop much more important than the rest, but it may be noted that the autumn crop of pulses is largely grown in the district and the sugarcane crop is fine. The people are exclusively agricultural, and there are no special customs of migration among them.

36.—SITAPUR.

Deputy Commissioner's letter no. 602, dated 30th November 1897.
Receipt no. 1157.

2. The following crops were obtained in the *khari* or autumn crop immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97. The figures given represent fraction of an average (not a bumper) crop: early rice $\frac{1}{2}$, late rice $\frac{1}{4}$, maize $\frac{3}{8}$, *juar* $\frac{1}{2}$, *bajra* $\frac{3}{8}$, other millets $\frac{3}{8}$, cotton $\frac{1}{2}$, pulses $\frac{1}{4}$, sugarcane $\frac{1}{2}$. It will be seen that there was a nearly complete failure of the rice and pulse crops, which occupied a little over half the cultivated area. This failure was preceded by a very inferior spring crop. For two years previously also the crops had been below average.

3. In consequence of the failure of the crops, a general meeting of the gentry and officials of the district was convened on the 22nd October 1896, to collect voluntary subscriptions for the relief of the poor, and especially the respectable *parda-nashin* women affected by the scarcity. Rupees 899-8-3 was collected, and distribution commenced in the Sitapur and Khairabad municipalities under the supervision of Babu Chhail Bihari Lal and Munshi Shankar Sahai. Donations of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 respectively were presented by the Raja of Mahmudabad and Thakur Jawahir Singh, Taluqdar, in commemoration of the visit of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh to this district in December 1896, of which Rs. 500 were allotted to the Charitable Relief Fund Trust, and have been shown under head "Miscellaneous Expenditure" and the balance (Rs. 1,000) was expended on the objects stated above. The following gifts were also received in kind from the gentlemen named below—(1) from Seth Raghubar Dial—200 blankets of the value of Rs. 400; (2) from Mirza Muhammad Ali Beg, Taluqdar—100 blankets of the value of Rs. 200. In addition to the sums mentioned above Rs. 100 were subscribed by Munshi Abdul Hadi Ali Khan, Rs. 375 by the European officers of the district, and Rs. 5 by Rameshar Dial Pande in June 1897. Thus the local subscriptions amounted to Rs 3,479-8-3, which were expended under the general supervision of the Managing Committee (afterwards called the District Committee) constituted on 22nd October 1896.

4. In anticipation of receiving grants from the Relief Fund orders were issued by the Deputy Commissioner in the beginning of February 1897, to the kanúngos of the 11 Government relief circles to instruct the patwáris of each village to prepare lists of cultivators who needed aid, and of the persons who required clothes. The members of the Local Boards were asked to scrutinize these lists, and patwáris were instructed to obtain the signature of zamíndars to the lists, in order to have some guarantee that really needy persons only were entered.

5. In February also the tahsildárs were ordered to purchase cloth as far as possible from weavers. Thus by the time when the first grants were received the organization was in an advanced state. It may be convenient to state here once for all, that with the exception of small sums spent in Sitapur and Khairabad, and handed over to the American Missionaries, the distribution of aid in purchasing seed and cattle and the provision of clothes were the only two forms of relief adopted. This policy was settled at a meeting of the District Committee held on the 7th April 1897. It was considered that the relief afforded by Government in food was ample. The distributions of clothes were made by the patwáris in the presence of the zamíndárs or leading men of the villages. This was commenced in March and ended in October 1897. The reason why the distribution occupied so long a time is as follows: in each tahsil the most distressed circle was selected for distribution first. It was not till the distribution had been completed and the accounts received that the next circle was taken up. The operations could thus be supervised conveniently.

The money for purchase of cattle and seed was received on the 12th and 25th of May 1897. Despatch was imperatively necessary, as the rains began towards the end of June, and the cultivators had to purchase bullocks and seed by that time. Accordingly the patwáris, to whom the lists (or pay sheets) as finally passed by Mr. Dampier (to whom I entrusted this task) had been distributed, were summoned to attend with their cultivators at the headquarters of the four tahsils. It was distributed in the presence of the patwáris who identified their men by the officers and gentlemen named below:—*Sitapur*—J. C. Smith, Esq., C.S., Assistant Commissioner; *Sidhauri*—G. R. Dampier, Esq., C.S., Assistant Commissioner; *Misrikh*—Munshi Abdul Aziz, Officiating Deputy Collector; *Biswan*—Tahsildar of Biswan, Chaudhri Ganga Bakhsh and Seth Swami Dial (members of the Committee).

I was able to report on 8th June 1897 that Rs. 67,841 had been distributed out of Rs. 72,000 allotted. Some tenants did not attend to receive the gifts, some refused gratuitous relief, and some had left their villages before distribution. Subsequent grants were received, and finally the number of cultivators relieved was 4,073, who received Rs. 76,654. The money was almost entirely devoted to cattle. Judging from the absence of subsequent complaints, it is probable that by far the greater portion of the money found its way into proper hands. Some complaints were preferred, but nearly all were groundless. It was no doubt the case that some patwáris levied a percentage on the gifts, but one or two prosecutions (as I have subsequently heard) secured the return of most of this. It will be seen that from the nature of the relief given it was impossible for the charitable and Government relief to overlap.

6. The relief to the respectable poor for purchase of food was given through the agency detailed below:—

Persons relieved through Babu Chhail Behari Lal	...	...	...	113
Ditto	Munshi Shankar Sahai	...	...	164
Ditto	Reverend P. T. Wilson, M.A.	...	...	85
Total				362

The Rs. 100 spent in quinine was in view of the sharp outbreak of fever in October 1897.

7. The actual balance on 31st October 1897 was Rs. 1,896-14-10. Out of this the following expenditure was incurred up to 6th November 1897 :—

						Rs.	a.	p.
Price of quinine	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	0
Pay of establishment for October and three days of November 1897	...	...	...	...	...	22	0	0
Petty contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	0	11	0
Total						122	11	0

The accounts of this Fund were finally closed on 6th November 1897, and the balance (Rs. 1,774-3-10) was remitted to the Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Allahabad, on the 20th November 1897.

8. The classification of expenditure now given does not agree with that which can be deduced from fortnightly returns; but the total expenditure agrees. This is mainly due to the fact that at the outset expenditure on clothes was debited to head I; it was subsequently distributed under its proper heads by comparison of the lists of persons to whom clothes were distributed with the lists of Government relief. A certain amount of relief to orphans was erroneously included in head I. There were other mistakes which have since been rectified.

9. The Committee is much indebted to the individuals named above, who performed a difficult task very ably. Mr. Dampier, C.S., gave great assistance in supervising the distribution of clothes and the preparation of the lists of cultivators. The periodical returns were prepared by Thakur Dass, District Board Head Clerk, without any remuneration, and they proved a sensible addition to his work.

H. W. PIKE, C.S.

Account of distressed area.—Situated on the western confines of Oudh the Hardoi district is one of only moderate fertility and is less highly favoured by nature than those tracts which have given to the province the name of the garden of India. In its western portion it is traversed by three considerable streams from which at times the benefits of irrigation and alluvial deposits are received, but which often cause damage by inundations. In the remaining portion of the district there is a large proportion of light sandy soil, the crops of which suffer equally from an excess or a deficiency of rainfall. There are no canals and the area irrigated from masonry wells is limited. There are no manufacturing or other industries. The population consists of cultivators and agricultural labourers with a small sprinkling of artisans. The prosperity of the district is dependent upon its crops: and these again are for the most part dependent upon favourable seasons.

2. The famine of 1896-97 was preceded by several years of agricultural depression. The *rabi* of 1895 and 1896 was a partial failure. The cultivating classes looked to a good *kharif* to recoup their losses, and with this hope a large area was sown. The failure of the monsoon rains of 1896 destroyed this hope. The greater part of the *kharif* crop was lost, and the usual preparations for the *rabi* could not be made. Famine now became inevitable, and the district was officially recognised as distressed from the 1st November 1896. The entire district, with an area of 2,325 square miles and a population of 1,113,000 souls, was affected by the distress.

3. *Account of organization of district system of relief.*—(a, On 22nd February 1897 a meeting of taluqdars, members of the District and Municipal Boards and respectable residents of the district was held and a committee formed to administer the distribution of charitable relief. Before this Rs. 1,800 had been collected locally and utilized for the provision of clothing for the poor. As all classes alike were hardly pressed, it was not possible to realize any large sum in local subscriptions. First remittances of Rs. 13,700 were received from the Provincial Committee on the

37.—HARDOI.
Deputy Commissioner:
642
letter no. XIII—52, d
ed 17th November 1897
Receipt no. 1024.

18th and 25th February 1897, and with this sum the organized distribution of relief under the four recognised objects, was commenced: a large staff under the superintendence of a European famine officer in each subdivision of the district was appointed for the administration of Government relief: and the famine officers and their subordinates, aided in the towns by committees of native gentlemen, undertook also the distribution of the money of the Charitable Fund. (b) Government relief was chiefly given in the following forms:—(i) the provision of work on large relief works for the labouring classes; (ii) the relief at their homes of those of the same classes who were physically unfit for labour; (iii) the relief at their homes of (a) respectable women prevented by the custom of the country from appearing in public and thus unable to join the relief works, and (b) persons of respectable family and position reduced to starvation; and (iv) the relief in poorhouses of persons in class (ii) who either had no homes or were temporarily unable to reach them.

From the Charitable Relief Fund assistance was given to persons of all the above classes in supplement of the Government relief under object I of the Fund by the distribution of clothing, blankets, &c. With regard to persons under heading (iii) above the operations of the Fund and of the Government relief proceeded to a certain extent side by side. There was some correspondence with the Provincial Committee with regard to the advisability of the whole of such expenditure being taken over by the Fund. As there was so large a scope for expenditure on persons not relieved in any way from Government funds, I did not recommend that the Charitable Fund should take over any of the expenditure under Chapter X of the Famine Code: and the Provincial Committee accepted my views. The provision of work for the respectable poor and for weavers came both within the scope of Government relief (Chapter X, Famine Code) and of the operation of the Fund. In this district it was undertaken from the Fund. As both Funds were administered through the same agency, there was no danger of these operations overlapping.

4. *Account of relief actually given.*—It has already been explained that the population of the district is chiefly agricultural. It was thought that the most beneficial purpose to which the money of the Fund could be devoted was the assistance of the cultivating classes. The largest expenditure was therefore under object IV, and consisted chiefly in grants for the purchase of seed and plough-cattle. Of a total expenditure up to 31st October 1897 of Rs. 3,47,450-4-9, Rs. 3,18,622, or 91 per cent., was under object IV. The greater part of this was given in time to enable recipients to plough and sow for the *kharij*. Rupees 2,18,173 was distributed between 15th May and 31st July 1897 for the purchase of plough-cattle, and Rs. 84,657 between 1st June and 31st July 1897 for the purchase of seed. The selection of the recipients and the distribution of the money was all personally supervised by the famine officers—Mr. Whittle, C.S., Mr. Edwards, C.S., Mr. Mumford, C.S., and Lieutenant O'Meara, I.S.C., whose self-sacrificing labours at the hottest season of the year cannot in my opinion be too highly praised. An account of the methods of selection and distribution, written by Mr. Mumford, C.S., has already been published, and I need add nothing to it now. I think that contributors to the Fund may be satisfied that no efforts were spared to ensure that the relief reached the persons in need of it.

The dryness of the season was favourable to fires. The ordinary villager's house consists of mud walls covered with grass thatches supported by wooden beams, which in the hot weather burn like tinder. A chance spark is sufficient to set the thatch in a blaze: the flames spread from house to house and in a very short time a whole village is roofless. The effect of such a calamity in a time otherwise of severe distress may easily be imagined. A portion of the Fund was devoted to the assistance of villages which had suffered in this way.

That no calamity might be wanting, the rainy season was marked by a series of inundations in the tracts mentioned in the first paragraph of this report. A special

allotment of Rs. 20,000 was made to assist cultivators in the flooded villages. With this sum, which is now in course of distribution, they will be helped in sowing the *rabī* crop.

The other heads of expenditure, under objects I to III, were of the usual kind and call for little remark. Handspun thread, which was formerly made in nearly every cottage, has been ousted almost entirely by the English or Indian mill-made product, and the present generation is unaccustomed to the spinning wheel. The numbers to whom cotton could be given for spinning were thus limited. This form of relief was chiefly successful in the town of Shāhabad, where there are a large number of decayed families too proud to beg, but not ashamed to work. The district suffered severely from malarial fever at the close of the monsoon. Rupees 165-6-0 was spent in purchase of quinine and cinchonidine for free distribution.

Under object II the sums shown represented expenditure after 30th September 1897. On that date the Government poorhouses were closed. The children remaining, numbering 284, were taken over and supported from the Fund. Two hundred and twenty were restored to their parents or friends. The remainder, 64, will be provided for under the orders of Government.

5. *Object V, Miscellaneous.*—The administration of the Fund cost Rs. 121-1-6, or .03 per cent. of the total expenditure. It was carried out by the officers of Government, who, I need not say, gave their services willingly.

6. *Winding up operations.*—When the prospects of the *khariḥ* crop were assured the necessity for relief came to an end. The operations of the Fund were brought to a conclusion *pari passu* with those of the Government relief. The distribution of gratuitous allowances and of the cotton for spinning were gradually stopped in September 1897. After that the only expenditure was on orphans (*vide* paragraph 4) and in flooded villages. When the expenditure under these heads ceases, the remaining balance will be refunded to the Provincial Committee.

H. M. R. HOPKINS, C.S.

THE famine in this district was not officially recognized by Government, as the distress was not very acute and only certain parts of the district suffered for want of rain. The area in which calamity was felt mostly lies in tahsil Mohamdi and in part of tahsil Lakhimpur; in the former tahsil the parganas of Pasgawan, Aurangabad, Magdapur, and Atwapiparia suffered heavily, as the soil is light and the irrigation is mainly dependent on favourable rain, because rivers and tanks do not exist and sinking of wells for the above purpose is not, as a matter of custom, done by the natives. The parts that suffered in tahsil Lakhimpur are Kukra and a portion of pargana Bhn̄r round about Bansi estate and Aliganj; the main crop of these portions of tahsil Lakhimpur being paddy, which to a great extent failed owing to deficiency in rain. The distressed area in tahsil Mohamdi is 420,811 acres and the portion of Lakhimpur tahsil comprises 131,187 acres.

2. The crops generally grown in the distressed tracts of Mohamdi tahsil are *bajra*, barley, and pulse. The distress is mainly due to failure of crops in the two preceding years before the cold weather of 1896-97. In 1894-95 excessive rain was the chief cause of failure of crops; the loss in this year was estimated at 7 annas per rupee; in 1895-96 the crops failed to the extent of 6 to 8 annas per rupee; this was owing to hoarfrost and want of rain to a certain extent. In the *khariḥ* of 1896-97 there was great failure of outturn, and the loss was estimated at 10 to 12 annas per rupee.

3. The parganas that suffered in tahsil Mohamdi are chiefly inhabited by the cultivating classes, who have no other occupation, excepting a few artisans

* But at the expense of the Fund.

38.—KHERRI.

Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. 666, dated
XIII—8,
23rd November 1897.
Receipt no. 1101.

for village needs. These people do not leave their houses and emigrate to other places in search of work. The people who inhabit the tracts of Lakhimpur tahsil are also of the same type, but during days when they have no field work to attend to they generally go to surrounding forests and work for contractors and others.

4. The distress was felt in September 1896 when prices rose high, and at once two poorhouses, one at Mohamdi and the other at Lakhimpur, were opened by private subscription and were kept up by private money till the beginning of February 1897, when the Government took them over. Two sub-committees were formed, one at each place, and subsequently a branch committee was formed at Gola, and a poorhouse was opened there also.

5. In the beginning of February 1897 the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund extended its aid to the District Committee, and the accounts of money raised by private subscription were amalgamated with those of the Fund money. The poorhouses were all kept up at the expense of Government, supplemented by the Fund money, which was spent mostly on clothing and special diet and other miscellaneous expenditure for the comforts of inmates.

6. The total sum of money received from the Provincial Committee to be expended on objects I to IV amounted to Rs. 32,200; our local income amounted to Rs. 3,742-13-6: making a total of Rs. 35,942-13-6, out of which Rs. 31,478-0-11 was expended on the objects mentioned above up to 31st October 1897 last, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,464-12-7. After defraying expenses up to 6th November 1897 and keeping a reserve of Rs. 150-12-2 for maintenance of orphans, the surplus of Rs. 4,202 was remitted to the Secretary of the Provincial Committee, Lucknow.

7. It is needless to recapitulate the sums expended under objects I and II, as there is nothing of special importance to be explained. The forms already submitted contain all information with regard to expenditure under these heads. With reference to expenditure under object III it is necessary to mention that there were few respectable poor in this district, who were assisted with money under this head, and this Committee had occasionally to revise the list of such people to ascertain that they were really deserving of assistance from this head. This is perhaps due to non-existence of large towns except Kheri, Lakhimpur, and Mohamdi, where most of the people assisted reside.

8. Of the expenditure under object IV, Rs. 18,839-5-6 were distributed in tahsil Mohamdi, Rs. 17,791 for seed and cattle, Rs. 891-5-6 as valedictory doles to poor after gratuitous relief was stopped, and Rs. 157 to artisans as assistance in buying their materials. The remaining sum of Rs. 5,434 was paid out in tahsil Lakhimpur, Rs. 4,907-13-3 to tenants, Rs. 319 to artisans and Rs. 207-2-9 as valedictory doles to paupers. The assistance under this head was also made to people in parganas other than the distressed where the tenants and artisans were found badly off. Great care was taken in distribution of money under object IV. Lists of all worthy people were first made by supervisor kanungos with the assistance of village headmen and zamindars and were then checked by tahsildars. The distributing officers then paid out the money from this head after personally satisfying themselves as to the fitness of the recipients to this money. No officer below the rank of tahsildar was allowed to distribute money.

9. The accounts of this Local Committee have been finally closed since the receipt of the Provincial Committee's letter No. 583, dated 3rd November 1897, and all operations have been wound up. There were seven paupers in hand at the close of October 1897, who have been made over to the care of private individuals. The orphans are still maintained, as there are no definite orders for their disposal.

10. The following persons rendered good service in connection with the Charitable Relief:—(1) Rani Surat Kuer, *talúqdar* of Singahi. This lady, though there was no scarcity in her estate in Nighasan and she had erected a poorhouse for her

own people, generously subscribed Rs. 100 per month for the Charitable Relief Fund and gave Rs. 101. at the Jubilee Darbār for distribution to the poor. (2) Thákur Balbhadar Singh, *Talúkdār* of Mahewa, gave a donation of Rs. 50 at the Jubilee and Rs. 50 per month towards the Charitable Fund, besides feeding a few poor daily. (3) Bábu Sheo Bakhsh Rao, Honorary Magistrate, pleader, and Secretary of the District and Municipal Boards, besides paying towards his private charitable fund of Sankatta Debi, gave a subscription of Rs. 30 monthly and exerted himself in raising subscriptions in Mohamdi and Gola and interested himself in the poorhouses. (4) Bábu Shiam Lal was active in looking after collections for the Sadar poorhouse and assisting generally. (5) The *tahsildárs* of the Sadar and Mohamdi did good work in checking the poorhouse expenditure. (6) The Deputy Commissioner gave a monthly subscription of Rs. 50 and made good all expenditure in excess of private subscriptions before the Government action began, which amounts to about Rs. 350 and is not included in the Charitable Relief Fund accounts. (7) M. Muhammad Habib-ullah, Deputy Collector, paid a monthly subscription of Rs. 20.

11. The following persons constructed works for the benefit of tenantry and paupers:—(1) Gobardhan Singh of Bijwa constructed a *kachcha* tank and building at Bijwa at a cost of Rs. 1,000. (2) Rája Sir Amir Hasan Khan of Mahmudabad constructed a *kachcha* tank at Mitauli at a cost of Rs. 400. (3) Sayyid Tasadduk Husain deepened a tank at Khurramnagar at a cost of Rs. 76, and also fed a few paupers daily. (4) Thákur Balbhadar Singh, *talúkdār* of Mahewa, constructed two tanks, one at Udrehna and the other at Shikarpur Amkotwa, at a cost of Rs. 350.

12. M. Habib-ullah, Deputy Collector, did the arduous duties of Secretary to the Fund with very little assistance and willingly gave up his leisure time for the purpose. Great credit is due to him for the manner he has done the work.

W. P. HARRISON, Lt.-Col.

THE Fyzabad district comprises an area of 1,728 square miles and has a population of 1,216,959. A large percentage of the cultivated area is under rice. Owing to the scanty rainfall in 1896 the rice harvest, including both the early and winter crops, withered up before coming to maturity, and this, combined with the failure of other autumn crops following on the unfavourable harvests of the previous two years, caused severe distress throughout the district, but especially in the *tahsils* of Akbarpur and Tándá. The Fyzabad *tahsil* was more fortunate in receiving some timely showers of rain, while in the Bikapur *tahsil*, though crops were a failure, the large remissions of money from emigrants to Rangoon and foreign countries to their families assisted very materially to tide over the worst period of the distress. It may be mentioned that in this *tahsil* the postal orders remitted by emigrants to their families averaged about Rs. 15,000 a month. Though the cultivators generally were better off in the Fyzabad *tahsil*, considerable numbers of people from other districts poured into the town of Fyzabad seeking for labour or means of subsistence, many of them in a destitute condition, who found their way eventually to the poorhouse.

2. Fortunately the *urhar* crop was a very good one, and owing probably to showers of rain falling while the crops were ripening the pod all over the district was gathered at three different times. During my cold weather tour I frequently noticed the flowers, the green pods, and the dark ripe pods on the same branch. This allowed many destitute people to gain a scanty daily meal by picking the pods as they became ripe, and though the owners of the fields suffered some loss, the petty thefts were not interfered with from charitable motives.

3. The only large town in the district after Fyzabad is Tándá, which has a population of nearly 20,000, about one-fifth of whom are weavers, many of whom migrate to Bombay to work at the mills there. This class of people suffered more than others and were to some extent specially helped.—Rupees 1,315 were distributed among 627 weavers from the Charitable Relief Fund for purchase of trade

39.—FYZABAD:

Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. ⁶⁹¹
XIII—66, dated
24th November 1897, and
its enclosure.
Receipt no. 1091.

instruments sold during the famine, and cloth valued at Rs. 500 was purchased from the poorer weavers for distribution among the paupers in the district and for inmates in the poorhouses. There are four or five other towns with a population varying from 3,000 to 8,000, from which a fairly large number of people migrate to Bombay to seek employment as weavers.

4. The spring crop for 1896 was generally under three-quarters of an average crop, while the two previous winter crops suffered from unseasonable excessive rain and were also below the average. The table annexed below shows the area of each tahsil in acres with cultivated area according to the village papers of *1,304 fasli :—

Name of tahsil.					Total area in acres.	Cultivated area in acres.
Fyzabad	...	...	...	...	239,430	128,853
Bikapur	...	...	...	...	299,187	161,938
Akbarpur	...	...	...	...	251,165	141,251
Tánda	...	...	...	...	317,349	191,632
Total					1,107,131	623,677

5. On the serious nature of the scarcity being recognized, a district committee, comprising as members most of the influential and respectable residents of Fyzabad, was organized in the beginning of October 1896. The distribution of the Charitable Relief Fund was made in three objects, viz. I, III, and IV. In the Fyzabad municipality the distribution was in objects I and III. A full report of the good work done by this committee has been drawn up by the Vice-Chairman, Rae Bahadur Gokalchand, and accompanies this report. The members of the committee mentioned by him as having done special good service deserve all praise for their labours. The assistance of mission ladies, viz. Miss Gault of the Church Missionary Society and the Misses Fentiman of the Wesleyan Mission, was gladly accepted by the committee, and their knowledge of the poorer respectable Muhammadan women enabled them to distribute relief to many who were sorely in need of it and who would possibly have been otherwise left uncared for. Many of these women eke out a subsistence by sewing caps and needlework, but this means of livelihood was almost destroyed by the high prices which compelled the general native public to cut down this expenditure to the lowest possible figure.

6. In the towns of Tánda and Akbarpur local committees were formed and did excellent work in relieving distress. In each tahsil relief committees were formed, but by far the greater proportion of relief distributed was carried out under the direct supervision of the Subdivisional Officers. The distribution of the money under object IV was made solely by Subdivisional Officers in camp at their respective tahsils and was kept entirely separate from State relief, only clothes being distributed to those receiving State relief. Money doles were as a rule distributed fortnightly.

7. The table appended below shows the amount of Charitable Relief Fund money distributed under each head in each of the four tahsils and the municipality :—

Name of tahsil.					Object I.	Object III.	Object IV.
					Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Fyzabad	...	...	...	...	407 9 3	92 6 9	8,451 0 0
Bikapur	...	...	...	...	559 11 6	240 4 6	11,410 0 0
Akbarpur	...	...	...	...	1,075 15 3	...	14,374 0 9
Tánda	...	...	...	...	1,145 6 3	504 9 9	12,000 0 0
Fyzabad municipality	...	...	...	...	120 0 0	4,292 4 9	...
Court of Wards	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000 0 0
Total					3,308 10 3	5,129 9 9	48,235 0 9

Lists of cultivators who had lost their plough-cattle on account of famine or by cattle-disease were called for from the tahsildárs and those lists were revised by Subdivisional Officers, who enquired into the circumstances of the recipients on the spot before payment. The money was paid by the Subdivisional Officers to the tenants in the presence of the landlords or mukhtárs of talúqdárs. At first there was some reluctance shown to accept money presents for purchase of cattle, cultivators apparently feeling that it hurt their pride, or possibly in some cases not being quite sure what the real intentions of the givers were; but this soon wore off, and before the distribution of money was completed there was a rush of applicants and careful inquiries had to be made regarding deserving cases before money was given.

8. Practically the distribution of relief was discontinued in the beginning of October 1897. Prices were then falling and the autumn harvest was coming into the market.

9. Rupees 500 was paid to the Subdivisional Officer, Fyzabad, for distribution of seed which was not actually spent, and thus the balance on 31st October 1897, as shown in the fortnightly account of 31st October 1897, has been increased by that amount *plus* Rs. 90 returned by the Subdivisional Officer, Bikapur. The balance then stood at Rs. 1,676-11-3. After 31st October 1897 Rs. 59-11-0 was paid on account of salary of famine relief establishment and to Civil Surgeon on account of dieting charges of patients sent to him from poorhouses for October 1897, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,617-0-3. Adding Rs. 18 the balance of private subscription, the total balance amounts to Rs. 1,635-0-3.

10. I have already mentioned the great services performed by the members of the District Committee. The members who deserve special praise have been named by the Vice-Chairman in his report. I have to cordially acknowledge the work of Rai Bahadur Gokal Chand, who is the Vice-Chairman. As I was mostly in camp during the cold weather, he took the chair and managed the administration of the funds with much tact and success. In the Akbarpur sub-committee Pandit Bisheshar Nath was the leading member and took over the supervision of the poorhouse as his special charge.

G. W. ANSON, LIEUT.-COL.,

Deputy Commissioner.

THE sudden failure of rains during the latter portion of the rainy season in 1896, and the consequent scantiness of the *kharif* crop, with its concomitant evil of dearth of grain in the market, created a general alarm throughout the greater part of the United Provinces (the district of Fyzabad not excepted), especially among the agricultural and the labouring classes, whose subsistence depends not to a less degree on the coarse grains like *juar*, *sawzn*, *kodon*, *marua*, and *dhan* produced during the rainy season. The income of most of the people falling short by relax of all kinds of trade, except that of corn dealing, the middle classes and the lower strata of the people found it very hard to keep up with the non-wavering dearth of grain in the markets, and therefore met the excess of expenditure by disposing of their ornaments and household furniture. On the exhaustion of this source of income many people left their homes for cities in search of employment, and under sheer necessity and compulsion condescended to keep up their poor and insufficient living by working on the relief works or by becoming inmates of poorhouses started by Government. The condition of petty labourers and labouring classes in villages was deplorable. Having sold off their few implements of husbandry and other moveables of the household, bereft of every employment in their own towns and villages, thousands of them migrated to cities as common beggars and became a source of constant trouble and expense to the people

Necessity of Famine Relief.

residing in them. This was borne by the people of Fyzabad for some time, but this becoming intolerable, as it did, in the end, they began to think of locating these strollers in some retired place and managing for their living there.

First steps taken in Fyzabad for relief of famine.

2. The proposal of freeing the city from the nuisance caused by these strolling beggars (popularly known by the name of *kanglās*) having become mature by frequent consultation among the well-to-do residents of Fyzabad and Ajudhia, a committee of certain influential members was formed in October 1896 to make necessary arrangements for establishing poorhouses within the municipality. About four meetings of this committee were held under different chairmen till the 15th of November 1896, at which measures were taken to raise subscriptions among the residents of Fyzabad and Ajudhia according to certain rates on their income and to construct poorhouses remote from the heart of the town.

Formation of first local committee and its work.

3. Under instructions from the Local Government, the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, a general meeting of the residents of Fyzabad and Ajudhia, both European and Native, was held in the Victoria Hall on the 15th November 1896 under the presidency of F. B. Mulock, Esq., C.S., Commissioner, Fyzabad Division, who, after declaring the object of the meeting and showing the necessity for raising funds for the relief of famine-stricken people and other respectable and indigent persons who could not go to the poorhouse or do relief work, announced a grant of Rs. 500 per mensem for five months by Government for that purpose. Upon this I, as chairman of the Municipal Board, announced a grant of Rs. 2,500 from the local municipality. A working committee of 28 gentlemen (*vide* Return A attached), with Colonel G. W. Anson, Deputy Commissioner as its Chairman and myself as Vice-Chairman, was formed on the spot for the purpose of collecting donations and subscriptions and controlling the distribution of gratuitous relief to deserving persons within the Municipality of Fyzabad. Seven of the members of this committee were deputed to assist the Deputy Commissioner in the management of the poorhouse, which had by this time been taken under the direct control of Government.

Sittings of the working committee, its final condition, and the function of each member.

4. From the 15th of November 1896 to 1st October 1897, which were the first and last sittings of the working committee, it met 24 times. In addition to the first 28 names given in Return A the names of Babu Agha Hasan Khan, Pandit Ganesh Singh, Babu Damodar Das, Babu Mahabir Parshad, B.A., and M. Babu Ram were added to the list of members, thus making a total of 33, but of these the names of 11 gentlemen were subsequently struck off for want of interest and inattention on their part towards famine work. Besides myself the following members attended more than two-thirds of the meetings: Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A., F.A.U. (Honorary Magistrate); Mr. Jehangirshaw (Honorary Magistrate) and Lala Anir Chaud (Honorary Magistrate), and the following gentlemen attended more than two-thirds of the meetings held after their appointment: Babu Mahabir Parshad, B.A., and Babu Agha Hasan Khan. The Chairman granted cheques for payment of money and watched the general interest of the Fund, and I, as Vice-Chairman, presided at most of the meetings, and in addition to my duty of distributing relief in my own circle regulated all the famine operations as carefully as I could. The office organized in the middle of December 1896 was for a very short time in the hands of Babu Balak Ram, Secretary, but the distribution of relief as well as supervision of the office was subsequently delegated to Babu Mahabir Parshad, B.A., 2nd Master in the local Collegiate School and a graduate of 18 years' standing, who took it up with active and real interest and discharged his duties cheerfully with admirable promptitude, regularity and despatch. Babu Damodar Das, B.A., Assistant Secretary, helped the committee by translating the proceedings of the working committee from Urdu into English, but this lasted only for a couple of months or so, after which this duty was also taken up by Babu Mahabir Parshad, B.A. The duty of auditing the accounts was entrusted to Babu

Shankar Dayal, who discharged his work carefully. The work of distributing gratuitous relief was mostly carried on by the following members, and it might be said very proudly of them that they performed this charitable work with the greatest cheerfulness and regularity: (1) Haji Shaikh Kadir Bakhsh (Honorary Magistrate), (2) Babu Agha Hasan Khan, (3) Babu Balak Ram, (4) Lala Amir Chand (Honorary Magistrate), (5) Babu Shankar Dayal (Honorary Magistrate), (6) Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A., F.A.U. (Honorary Magistrate), (7) Babu Sarju Parshad, (8) Babu Baldeo Parshad Kapur, (9) Babu Manohar Lal, (10) Babu Damodar Das, B.A., (11) Lala Sheo Parshad, (12) Reverend J. A. Elliott, (13) Dr. Munna Lal, and (14) Babu Mahabir Pershad, B.A. In addition to the above members the work of distribution was also entrusted to the following missionary ladies and gentlemen who were not members of the working committee:—(1) Miss Fentiman, (2) Miss Gault, (3) Miss Hill, and (4) Reverend E. A. Hensley.

5. The sources which contributed to form the whole amount of the Charitable Relief Fund at the disposal of the working committee were four in number, *viz.* Government grant, municipal contribution, private donations and subscriptions, and the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. As noticed in paragraph 3, Rs. 2,500 were granted by Government and an equal amount contributed by the local municipality. The amount raised by donations and subscriptions in Fyzabad and Ajudhia was Rs. 4,132-8-6.

History of complete formation of the Charitable Relief Fund.

The following gentlemen contributed sums of Rs. 50 and over and deserve the cordial thanks of the Committee:—*Europeans*—(1) The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Rs. 500; (2) F. B. Mulock, Esq., I.C.S., Rs. 200; (3) Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Anson, Rs. 200; (4) Colonel T. R. Cowie, Rs. 200; (5) Major C. Russell, Rs. 119; (6) Colonel A. H. Turner, Rs. 100; (7) Colonel G. H. Elliott, Rs. 100; (8) Major E. Gossett, Rs. 100; (9) Surgeon-Major J. J. Pratt, Rs. 80; (10) Reverend J. F. W. Gompertz, Rs. 75; and (11) Major R. McCrea, Rs. 60. *Natives*—(1) Rai Gokal Chand Bahadur, Rs. 300; (2) Babu Shiom Lal Mullick of Calcutta Rs. 150; (3) Ajndhia Estate, Rs. 100; (4) Babu Manohar Lal, Rs. 100; (5) Babu Balak Ram, Rs. 100, (6) Babu Sarju Parshad, Rs. 100, (7) Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A., F.A.U., Rs. 50, and (8) Babu Gopal Lal, B.A., Rs. 50.

For the purpose of collecting donations and subscriptions, the whole municipality was divided into seven wards in charge of 18 members of the working committee, of whom Mr. E. Graham (Honorary Magistrate) alone collected Rs. 2,402, which amounts to more than half the total sum realized from private subscriptions. The major portion of this sum was realized in December 1896, although the contributions, chiefly by European gentlemen in the Civil Lines and Cantonments, went on till April 1897, after which the receipts were practically stopped. The next gentleman who showed a keen interest in collecting donations was Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A., F.A.U. (Honorary Magistrate), who realized Rs. 906-8-0. But the largest source of income was the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, which swelled our fund by Rs. 8,250; the receipts under this head in March and April 1897 being Rs. 1,250 and Rs. 7,000 respectively. The total receipts therefore (increased by annas four on account of cost of a cheque book returned to the Oudh Commercial Bank) come to Rs. 17,367-9-6.*

6. The system of distributing relief began by dividing the municipality into seven wards, by races and castes, each member preparing lists of respectable and indigent men, women, and children for his ward of the different kinds of people entrusted to him, and then submitting them to the committee for investigation by another member. Thus the lists were invariably passed for payment only when the committee was satisfied that a thorough inquiry had been gone through in the case of each. The members in most cases made inquiries on the spot and gave ample opportunity to each person by verbal or written application to state his circumstances and have justice done him.

*Distribution of gratuitous relief, its system and kinds. —

* Fyzabad city relief account figures.

The condition of *pardu-nashin* women and other respectable but straving people who were ashamed to have themselves enrolled in the relief lists was secretly enquired into by the people of the mohallas in which they resided, and due care was taken to pay them their due in a way to preserve their modesty. Again to bring the relief within the reach of every person the people of the villages and mohallas were required to freely report any cases they thought deserving and then fresh names were added to the lists on their being found fit. In short every measure was taken to give the deserving person his due and every facility offered to make him bring himself "within the reach of suitable relief." But the system of distributing by castes and wards as described above could not in the long run be strictly adhered to, so that in the end some of the members had castes other than those originally proposed for them. As the number of recipients increased month by month the number of charges or wards increased according to requirements. Thus the number had become double in September 1897. The relief given by the committee was mostly in cash, a very little sum of Rs. 105-8-0 having been spent by missionaries in distributing cloth to 235 persons. The system of giving relief by money doles proved very "successful and adapted to the condition of the people" as with it they could purchase just what they were most in need of. The committee gave no relief under object IV, nor did it keep a separate account of orphans coming under object II, as there was no orphanage in the station properly so called under the management of that body. The amount spent on them has therefore been included in object III.

The nature of doles and their subsequent modifications.

7. It was first of all proposed to give Rs. 2 to each person above 12, and Rs. 1-8-0 to each between 12 and 2 per month. But subsequently the doles were divided into four classes, and it was decided that no family, however large, was to get more than Rs. 5 per mensem:—Class I, Rs. 2-8, Class II, Rs. 2, Class III, Rs. 1, and Class IV, Re. 1.

But as more experience was gained in the work of distribution and the prices of grain began to fluctuate, it was thought that the system of adhering to fixed doles stood in the way of doing justice to many families owing to the peculiar and varying circumstances of each: consequently the amount of doles was for the most part left to the discretion of the disbursing member, although in a majority of cases the rates already fixed continued unaltered. The maximum and minimum doles, however, during the period under report were Rs. 4 to Re. 0-1-0, which would give, taking the other rates into account, an average of Rs. 1-8-0 for every man per month, or a little more than nine pies per man per diem.

Time of and amount of money spent on gratuitous relief.

8. It was the 15th of December 1896 when the work of gratuitous relief was first started in the municipality. The first payment was made on 16th December 1896 for the second fortnight of that month. The fortnightly distribution went on till March 1897, after which it steadily continued monthly till September 1897. The total number of times that the relief was given during the period under report was fourteen and the whole money spent under this head was Rs. 12,376-11-0.* The number of heads of families to whom payments were made varied from 431 to 1,751, but the number of persons relieved by these payments, including the dependants of each family, ranged between 622 and 3,326. Taking, however, the figures for each month, the average of the first and second comes to 1,182 and 1,905 respectively. Out of 3,326, the total number of souls relieved at the close of September 1897, 1,056 were Hindus and 2,270 Muhammadans. The number of men, women, and children composing the above number was 826, 1,597, and 903 respectively. The total sum spent and the number of heads of families relieved by each member of the executive committee is given in Return B, which would show that the largest number of persons was relieved by Hájí Sheikh Kadir Bukhsh and the next lower by Babu Agha Hasan Khan.

How accounts of various moneys have been kept.

9. The amounts received from various sources were deposited in the Oudh Commercial Bank, Ltd., under the general head "Fyzabad Famine Relief Fund," but in the office records they have been put down under their proper heads. Under

* This and other figures in this report of the Fyzabad City Committee, include Government and Municipal money, which is excluded from the accounts of the fund.

expenditure we spent Rs. 500 per month from the Government grant of Rs. 2,500, so that this sum was exhausted in May 1897. But simultaneously with this we continued spending the balance required for each month from the municipal contribution and private subscription, a separate account showing the expenditure of these two not having been kept in the office. The latter sum was exhausted in July 1897, subsequent to which all expenditure incurred was paid from the money received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The nature of relief given by all the three agencies was the same throughout, though the expenditure under the three heads was shown separately. Thus the money given by Government and that by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund were in their operations "in close touch with each other" as well as separate, and "the relief administered by the latter fitted in admirably well with that given by Government."

10. Out of the total receipts of Rs. 17,367-9-6 as detailed in paragraph 6, Rs. 12,376-11-0 was spent in gratuitous relief as mentioned in paragraph 8, and Rs. 2,600 was paid by the Deputy Commissioner to the Subdivisional Officer for distribution under the various heads of disbursement, besides Rs. 484-3-9 made over to the Treasury Officer and the Civil Surgeon, Fyzabad for objects I—IV. The last item of Rs. 800-12-6 comes under the head of miscellaneous expenditure. All this accumulated gives a total expenditure of Rs. 16,261-11-3, leaving a balance in the Bank of Rs. 1,105-14-3 at the close of operations. A sum of Rs. 8,000 drawn and then refunded by the Deputy Commissioner has been omitted from these accounts, and has been shown in the periodical returns submitted by this office. This would give a nominal income and expenditure of Rs. 25,367-9-6 and Rs. 24,261-11-3 respectively.

Details of total expenditure and the balance at the close of operations.

11. It having been decided by the Local Government of these Provinces to close all famine relief operations on the 1st of October 1897, the meeting of the working committee held on that day resolved that the operations of gratuitous relief should be wound up and records all arranged during the month of October, and that the muharrirs and peons be dismissed by the end of that month.

Winding up of famine relief operations.

12. Where more than half of the members of the committee have worked with commendable zeal and with a proper sense of responsibility, it is invidious to single out names for special mention. But I cannot conclude this report without bringing to the prominent notice of Government the services of the following members, *viz*:—(1) Babu Mahabir Parshad, B.A., whom I cannot sufficiently thank for the great pains taken by him in carrying out the work of Secretary. He also took a great interest in the distribution of doles and attended most of the meetings held during the period of his membership; (2) Hájí Sheikh Kadir Bakhsh, Honorary Magistrate, for the very great interest taken by him in the distribution of relief to the largest number of Muhammadan recipients and the trouble he took in scrutinizing every individual case; (3) Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A., Honorary Magistrate, for assistance in the collection of subscriptions, attendance at most of the meetings and general assistance in the distribution of relief; (4) Babu Amir Chand, Honorary Magistrate, and Babu Agha Hasan Khan, for attendance at most of the meetings and assistance in the distribution of relief; (5) Babu Shankar Dayal, Honorary Magistrate, and Damodar Das, B.A., for assistance in the distribution of relief and office work; (6) E. Graham, Esq., Honorary Magistrate, for the assistance given by him in the collection of subscriptions from Europeans; and (7) Babus Manohar Lal and Balak Ram for assistance in the distribution of relief. In conclusion I would take the liberty of recording my sense of gratefulness to yourself and to our esteemed Commissioner, Mr. F. B. Mulock, for the great interest you both have evinced in this charitable work, and for the wholesome advice with which you have so cheerfully favoured me from the commencement to the close of the relief operations here.

Mention of special services rendered by a member of Committee in conclusion.

GOKUL CHAND,

Vice-Chairman, Famine Relief Committee.

RETURN A.

List of members of the Working Committee, Famine Relief Fund, Fyzabad.
Total number of sittings—24.

Serial number.	Names.	Attendance	Work done by each.
1	Colonel G. W. Anson	1	Chairmanship of the committee and general supervision of relief operations.
2	C. A. C. Streetfield, Esq., C.S.	1	
2	Rae Gokulchand Bahadur	19	Vice-Chairmanship and direct control over general vision of relief operations.
3	Babu Mahabir Prasad, B.A.	13	Charge of office and distribution of relief.
4	Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A.	17	Collection of subscriptions and distribution of relief.
5	Reverend J. A. Elliott	6	Ditto.
6	Babu Manohar Lal	16	Distribution of relief and granting of cheques.
7	Babu Balak Ram	11	Secretaryship, collection of subscriptions and distribution of relief.
8	Haji Shaikh Kadir Bakhs	13	Distribution of gratuitous relief.
9	Sardar Ganpat Ilac	8	Assistance in the erection of poorhouse.
10	Pandit Paini Narain	2	Nil.
11	Babu Baldeo Parshad Kapur	7	Assistance in poorhouse and distribution of relief.
12	E. Graham, Esq.	...	Collection of fund.
13	Mr. Jahangirshaw	20	Nil.
14	Lala Bindu Parshad	7	Distribution of relief. Name removed on 1st May 1897.
15	Babu Baldeo Parshad, Valil	...	Nil. Name removed on 15th Feb 1897.
16	Dr. Munna Lal	13	Distribution of relief.
17	Lala Sarju Parshad	4	Collection of funds and distribution of relief. Struck off 15th February 1897.
18	Babu Shankar Dayal	13	Auditorship of accounts and distribution of relief.
19	Haji Faiz Muhammad	...	Nil. Name removed 1st March 1897.
20	Lala Sheoghulun	2	Nil. Name removed 1st February 1897.
21	Pandit Rami Parshad	...	Distribution of relief. Struck off 1st February 1897.
22	Dr. Ashutosh Banerji	...	Nil. Name removed 15th February 1897.
23	Babu Bihari Lal Mukerji	13	Supervision of poorhouse.
24	Sayid Fazl Rasul	8	Ditto and collection of funds.
25	Lala Bishun Lal	...	Nil. Name removed 1st February 1897.
26	„ Sheo Parshad	3	Distribution of relief.
27	Babu Amir Chaud	17	Assistance in poorhouse and distribution of relief.
28	Rae Ragho Parshad	1	Nil. Name removed 15th February 1897.
29	Lala Dwarka Das	...	Collection of funds. Name removed 1st February 1897.
30	Babu Agha Hasan Khan	13	Assistance in poorhouse and distribution of relief.
31	Pandit Ganesh Singh	...	Nil. Name removed 15th April 1897.
32	Babu Damodar Das, B.A.	9	Assistant Secretaryship and distribution of relief.
33	M. Babu Ram	...	Nil.

GOKUL CHAND,

Vice-Chairman, Famine Relief Fund Comm.

RETURN B.

Statement showing the amount disbursed and the heads of families relieved by each distributing officer, with the castes and wards belonging to each.

Serial number.	Name of disbursing officer.	Amount disbursed.	Number of heads of families relieved.	Races of people and wards entrusted to each.
		Rs. a. p.		
1	Haji Shaikh Kadir Bakhs	2,026 6 0	1,690	Muhammadans in Sahabganj and 1 Darwaza wards.
2	Babu Agha Hasan Khan	1,696 0 0	1,434	Muhammadans in Chauk and Muz wards.
3	Babu Balak Ram and Babu Mahabir Parshad.	1,397 4 0	1,103	Hindus and Muhammadans in Ch Muzaffra, Ajudhia, and Darshann wards.
4	Babu Amir Chaud	1,364 0 0	1,032	Hindus and Muhammadans in Aju ward.
5	Babu Shankar Dayal	1,181 4 0	974	Hindus (lower classes) of the whole Municipality.
6	Miss Fontiman	1,100 0 0	957	Hindus and Muhammadans of the whole Municipality.
7	Lala Sarju Parshad and Babu Baldeo Parshad Kapur.	625 13 0	619	Hindus (Agarwala and other Vaish) in the whole Municipality.
8	Dr. Munna Lal	575 0 0	815	All kinds of indoor patients in the dispensary.

RETURN B.

Statement showing the amount disbursed and the heads of families relieved by each distributing officer, with the castes and wards belonging to each—(concluded.).

Serial number.	Name of disbursing officer.	Amount disbursed.	Number of heads of families relieved.	Races of people and wards entrusted to each.
		Rs. a. p.		
9	Babu Ram Saran Das, M.A. ...	546 4 0	389	Hindus (Kayesths and Bráhmans) in Delhi Darwázá ward.
10	Miss Gault ...	500 0 0	258	Hindus and Muhammadans of Ajudhia and Fyzabad.
11	Babu Damodar Das, B. A. ...	467 12 0	517	Ditto ditto.
12	Rai Gokul Chand Bahadur and Babu Manohar Lal.	382 4 0	287	Hindus (Khattris and Bráhmans) of the whole Municipality.
13	Miss Hill ...	200 0 0	101	Hindus and Muhammadans of Fyzabad and Ajudhia.
14	Lala Sheo Parshad (Lala Gauri Shankar).	125 0 0	124	Hindus and Muhammadans of Sultánpur, Deokali and Ranopali.
15	Reverend E. A. Hensley ...	(a) 100 0 0	238	Hindus and Muhammadans of the whole Municipality.
16	Reverend J. A. Elliot ...	36 12 0	73	Christians and Muhammadans of Fyzabad City.
17	Pandit Ram Parshad ...	36 0 0	24	Hindus of Ajudhya.
18	Lala Bindu Parshad ...	17 0 0	5	Hindus (lower classes) of the whole Municipality.
	Total ...	12,376 11 0	Average. 1,064	

(a) Price of cloth distributed and not cash.

GOKUL CHAND,

Vice-Chairman, Famine Relief Fund Committee.

THE district of Gonda comprises an area of 2,741 square miles with a population of 1,459,000. In the middle of July 1896 the rains being unfavourable a failure of crops (*khariif*) was expected. The chief crops on which the district depends are maize and rice. The former crop gave an excellent outturn in the Tirabganj tahsil and was fair in Gonda, being very poor elsewhere. The latter, though promising in the beginning, was totally ruined by lack of the rains in September and October 1896. The largest portion of the district area is covered by the Utranla tahsil, where this crop is held as the main crop, and utter failure thereof was therefore bitterly felt by the rural masses.

During the three years preceding 1896-97 the outturn of the main crops was also not good, and consequently the people could not be quite prepared to meet the hard times they have had. However, the scarcity never deepened into famine, and the district was therefore not officially declared as distressed, but was kept under observation; and the classes of people who resorted to relief given were mostly of low castes and labourers. The area affected by scarcity out of the entire area of the district where relief of all kinds was distributed was 1,231 square miles with a population of 715,000. Of the excluded area more than half is owned by the wealthy Balrámpur Estate, which looked after its own tenantry without any assistance from Government or the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The remaining area was in the south and south-west of the district where maize is extensively grown; the crop was almost an average one and sold for high prices, and the *rabi* harvest was also good.

When towards the end of the rainy season a failure of harvest seemed to be certain, local committees were formed to raise subscriptions for the relief of the poorer classes in the form of clothing and distribution of doles, both in cash and kind. The Nawábganj mahájans established a private kitchen, where they almost

40.—GONDA.

Deputy Commissioner's letter no. 451, dated 4th December 1897.
Receipt no. 1165.

Preliminary.

Account of organization of district system of relief.

with their own funds used to distribute *khichri* (cooked food) once a day. This was continued for months. The total amount of private subscriptions thus raised in the district was Rs. 7,548-3-9 and the list of subscribers for each tahsil has already been submitted to the Honorary Secretary at Lucknow. The relief was distributed through private subscriptions till March 1897, when the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund money was received. The first amount that was received from the Fund was Rs. 500 through the Commissioner of the division for distribution of clothing to needy people. On receipt of the farther sums from the Honorary Secretary at Lucknow a meeting was held presided over by the Deputy Commissioner as Chairman, with Bábu Salig Ram, B.A., vakil, as Secretary. The last-named gentleman, aided by the members, distributed the money under objects I and III and duly accounted for it. All possible care was taken to see that the relief was given to the most needy people and reached their hands actually. The relief was given in cash as well as in clothing, lots of persons being also fed on such occasions as Jubilee Day, Id, Holi, and Queen's Birthday. The inmates of the Government poorhouses at Gonda and Utraula were also given a share of these funds in the shape of clothing. The pargana officers who are full-powered Magistrates and members of the Indian and Provincial Civil Services were directed to make inquiries for the people who needed clothing and the amount was paid through them to the ascertained numbers.

Account of relief actually administered.

The relief from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund money was distributed under all the objects except II, under which nothing was paid or distributed till 31st October 1897. The largest amount spent was under objects III and IV, i.e., Rs. 8,608 under object III and Rs. 22,922 under object IV, respectively. The amount under object III was distributed through the secretary to the local famine relief committee and the tahsildárs, who used their best discretion in seeing that the money was given to none but deserving persons only.

For the amount distributed under object IV pargana officers were directed to compile for their respective circles lists of persons who actually needed cattle and seed grain, before the actual distribution of the amount; and on the completion of these lists they personally conducted the disbursements, each payment being initialled by them. A sum of Rs. 2,500 was also sent to the Special Manager, Court of Wards, Gonda, who adopted the same procedure as the pargana officers. All the disbursing officers were requested to send in periodically the vouchers of the lists of payments of the amounts respectively disbursed by them to the sadar to be checked and examined by the Honorary Accountant (Pandit Jai Lal, Deputy Collector), the Treasury Officer, who has well examined and criticised the accounts submitted. A patwári of manza Chandapur in the Turabganj tahsil was suspected to have taken a rupee as bribe and was fined Rs. 10 by the Assistant Commissioner.

In conclusion it must be noted that the receipt of grants from the Fund was extremely appreciated and most usefully supplemented by the liberal grants directly made by the Local Government. The supply of seed and cattle enabled numbers of the needy tenants to stick patiently to their mother lands in hope of a change for the better.

L. H. TURNER, C.S.

41.—SULTANPUR.
Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. 267
111-4-106, dated
15th November 1897.
Receipt no. 1010.

1. Area.—You may take it that scarcity was felt keenly all over the district, 1,707 square miles—with a population now of about 1,100,000 persons. All through we remained "under observation" only. I should say that pargana Amethi, the villages along the river Gumti in tahsil Masáfirkhána and Sultánpur, and a small tract in the extreme east on the Azamgarh border, were the portions of the district which suffered most. But scarcity and its satellite, famine prices, reigned everywhere.

2. *Physical conditions.*—Pargana Amethi is low-lying and much devoted to rice and **“jarhan.”* It was in the natural course of things that it should suffer severely. The Rája of Amethi also, who owns almost the whole pargana, offered practically no assistance to the people resident in his immense taluqa. The river Gumti runs through the district from north-west to south-east, and much of the land alongside it is light and poor. The extreme east depends largely on its *“jarhan”* crop, and this of course there too failed badly.

3. *Crops.*—Rice is the main autumn staple everywhere and relatively the most important crop of that harvest, although the late sown rice (*jarhan*) is in parts more extensively sown, and more materially valuable. *Juár* and *arhar* are grown everywhere, and a fair amount of *urd*, and *mothi*. *Bájra* is a small crop. Indian maize is hardly grown at all. Cane is popular in most parts. In the Musáfirkhána tahsil (north-western portion of the district) it is tabooed, for curious reasons which cannot be discussed here. *Sáwan* takes its place there. Indigo is grown miscellaneously in three out of the four sub-divisions. In Amethi it is not sown. Wheat and barley are always extensive crops. Peas and gram are the main food grains grown by the lower castes. Opium and vegetable crops are caviare to the Murao cultivators, who are found more or less all over the district, here and there.

4. *Economics.*—Sultánpur is essentially a rural district. The town which gives the district its name boasts a population of some 10,000 souls. There is not another town or village within our borders which can muster half that total. At least three-fourths of the people rely upon agriculture for their living, and the balance is made up of (1) the labouring classes, pure and simple, and (2) all those who have other sources of income (*e.g.* service, trade, &c.) in about equal proportions. Taken all round we are a hardy, thrifty folk, never prone to knuckle under without good cause, and able, we think, to boast of a little more backbone than some of our neighbours. The soil is naturally fertile, and has not yet suffered seriously from over-cropping. A famine now and then comes as a God-send to avert such a catastrophe. There are few native regiments recruited from these provinces, that cannot boast a few Sultánpuris among their numbers. Many is the officer or civilian who has grateful memories of a Sultánpur servant. Only a few days ago a sub-postmaster in the east of the district, who is good enough to collect foreign covers for me from time to time, sent me those which had fallen into his net within the last three months or so. St. Lucia, Natal, the Transvaal, Portuguese India, Fiji, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Hongkong all went to swell the total, a goodly proof of how we wander far afield for sake of gain or bread. In bad times such as came upon us with a rush in the fall of 1896, many a sturdy son of the soil puts his knapsack on his shoulder, and strides off to try and keep the pot boiling on the hob at home.

5. *The seasons in 1893-96.*—In the two former years 1893 and 1894 we were far from having any bumper crops. The rains of 1894 were abnormally long and heavy, and there was much flooding wherever such a contingency was possible. The *rabi* following left much to be desired. Insects were troublesome. The outturn was often light. The rains of 1895 were far more propitious, and both autumn and spring crops were better than for many years before. So we entered on the dismal days of September 1896 with fairly light hearts, and a little in hand for a dry day.

6. *The crops in 1896-97.*—In June 1896 fair rain fell everywhere but in the Amethi pargana, where there was considerable shortage. The rice germinated freely. Then came the scanty falls of July. Once more, however, we took heart of hope when August ushered in a steady downpour. Up to the 22nd of that month there was no cause for anxiety. It is the August rain that makes the *rabi* grow, so on that score also hopes were high. Then came the pause, and it stayed. A mocking shower in September was all we had to be thankful for till the heavy winter burst in January

* Winter rice.

1897 rescued the *rabi*, and dispelled our doubts. Taken all round I estimate that we had a five to six aunas autumn harvest. Rice, where irrigated, did fairly, but most of us watched our crops drying up before our eyes till it was too late to save them. "*Jarhan*," the late rice, was the worst failure of all. *Juár* was unexpectedly good, which is not saying very much for it. Then came the tug of war, the struggle to get a spring crop sown. There was plenty of seed but it was selling at fancy prices. Up *Munsáirkhána* way, Munshi Jainti Parshad, Tahsildár, who had a keen recollection of the 1877-78 scarcity in Rae Bareilly, at once promoted *sáwan* growing on as extensive a scale as he could, and with marvellous success. The top soil was like manure, thoroughly ploughed during September, and full of sun-heat and energy, and the outturn of this millet, wherever sown, was unusually prolific. As much as 20 to 30 maunds per acre and more was realized from it. I am never tired of singing the praises of *sáwan* as a famine crop, but I must desist for fear of tiring others. By hook or by crook we got 75 per cent. of the normal *rabi* area sown, and bar the gram, which was put down out of season, last instead of first, and miserably failed, the outturn exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

7. *Organization of relief system.*—This district is comprised in four tahsil- or sub-divisions. These in turn provide 18 kanungos' beats. Each of these was constituted a Famine Relief Circle. Towards the end of November 1896, 38 sub-committees were formed all over the district to assist in the distribution of gratuitous relief, and these were used, when occasion arose, as the media through which charitable relief also was afforded. Besides these district coadjutors we had five small sub-committees, one for each ward, within the Municipality, for the town and neighbourhood. Prior to the receipt of assistance from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, we had started a cheap grain shop at headquarters, to which I will refer hereafter, and had also arranged for the supply of clothing and blankets to the inhabitants of our four poorhouses. The management of the poorhouse at Sultánpur remained all along in the hands of Munshi Abdul Karim, Deputy Collector, who was also responsible for all relief in and around the town. At other tahsil headquarters the naib tahsildár usually looked after poorhouse arrangements. Most of the cash doles given to respectable persons in need of help were distributed in the large quasi-urban villages of Hasanpur, Dostpur, Kishni, Sathin, and Isanli. The Subdivisional Officers (*viz.* Deputy Collectors in charge of tahsils) personally arranged for this through the local sub-committees in those places. The procedure adopted in disbursing help towards the purchase of grain-seed and plough-cattle was as follows. Patwáris in consultation with landholders, lessees, or agents of taluqdárs, prepared lists of needy and deserving tenants. These were checked by the circle officer, and tahsildár. The Subdivisional Officer then proceeded to the headquarters of his tahsil and personally distributed the money allotted for this purpose to the recipients in the presence of the patwári and circle officer and landlords too if present. The help rendered by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to respectable persons was ancillary and supplementary to that disbursed by Government. But in the matter of seed grain and bullocks it stood almost alone. Our grants for advances for these purposes this year were comparatively small, and there was practically little or no overlapping of the two agencies in this connection here.

8. *Account of relief actually administered.*—The figures in Forms A and B afford all the information needed under this head. The total amount collected in and received for this district came to Rs. 72,769-10-9. It was made up as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) From local subscriptions
(2) From the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund	68,700	0 0
(3) Miscellaneous
	...	27	15 0

It was all of it spent as under:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) On object I
(2) On object III	2,632	13 10
(3) On object IV	8,134	12 11
	...	62,000	0 0

The number of persons to whom clothing, blankets, &c., were given was 3,104.

Extra comforts were provided for 965 persons in our four poorhouses, from time to time. During August and September 164 respectable poor persons were helped with money doles. Some relief works children were fed daily during part of February and March 1897, while distress was most keen; but most relief of this kind was done privately out of monies that never passed through the accounts. Clothing was given to 518 persons who needed such help though not on the lists of those receiving gratuitous relief from Government. In the month of April and October 584 persons were helped through the medium of grain doles. From middle of March up to the end of October, money doles were distributed at intervals of a fortnight or month to 3,964 respectable poor people, as opportunity offered.

Over three-fourths of our locally subscribed funds were devoted to the up-keep of the cheap grain shop at Sultánpur. We had a system of tickets in force, the allotment of which was in the hands of the five ward sub-committees. Their lists were revised from time to time. All our grain was bought round the corner in the open market. The shop itself was situated in one of the rooms set apart for tahsíl chaprásis, and was run in connection with the distribution of Government grain relief, the stores for which were kept in the next compartment. We paid for a clerk who kept the accounts of both stocks, and of all daily disbursements. A system of tickets of different colours prevented the possibility of confusion. Grain was kept all ready weighed out in small baskets of the value of 2 annas, 4 annas, 8 annas and Re. 1. We found this kind of relief to work excellently, and it proved most popular and acceptable. It has the very great benefit of not being demoralizing in its results. The buyer has to pay for what he gets. He gets nothing free. It is, *cela va sans dire*, popular with the grain-dealers also, for it means so much more money in their pockets, which otherwise would never have found its way into them. It may be urged that the relief so afforded is very trifling. But every little helps. It will be said that arrangements of this kind involve a lot of trouble. Granted. They do. A shop like this must be visited and supervised every day. But if the workers are willing this should not prove impossible. I believe most heartily in self-help. The great drawback to our gigantic Famine Relief System is its demoralizing tendency. A cheap grain shop pauperizes no one, except the subscribers who maintain it. The people of the country alike who support and who are helped by an institution of this kind appreciate its homoecean properties.

In all 14,892 cultivators were helped out of the money sent to us from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. To 9,886 help was granted to purchase seed-grain for their autumn crop sowings, while 4,549 were enabled or assisted to replace their agricultural stock.

The value of this form of charity cannot be overrated, and I am satisfied that it was disbursed with the utmost possible care, and to the best possible advantage. Our Deputy Collectors looked upon this money in the light of a sacred trust, and endeavoured by every possible means in their power to see that it reached the right persons.

9. *Special items of Receipt and Expenditure.*—There are none such that have not been fully elucidated in the prescribed forms of accounts.

10. *Services rendered.*—To our four Subdivisional Officers the thanks of the district are due for the unremitting care they always showed in securing the proper use of the monies entrusted to them: *Chaudhri Maharáj Singh*, Deputy Collector, in charge of the Sultánpur tahsíl; *Munshi Muhammad Baqar Khan*, Deputy Collector, in charge of the Kadipur tahsíl; *Munshi Sharafat-ulla*, Deputy Collector, in charge of the Musáfirkhána tahsíl; *Munshi Hissam-ud-din*, Deputy Collector, in charge of the Amethi tahsíl.

To *Munshi Abdul Karim*, Deputy Collector, I would also place on record our sincere obligations. He was indefatigable at all times and every day in his

organization of the cheap grain shop and other relief of all kinds in and around Sultānpur, where the distress was perhaps as keenly felt as anywhere, owing to the number of light properties on the banks of the Gumti near the town.

To *Pandit Raj Narain*, Deputy Collector, much praise is due for the careful way in which he kept our accounts. It is at all times a thankless, and often an unacknowledged task. Probably no one but he who has to do it knows the amount of trouble and attention that it involves.

11. *Winding up.*—We closed our poorhouse at the Sadr early in September, so far as Government or Charitable Fund Relief was concerned. It is a permanent institution, however, kept up from local subscriptions, and we maintain 50 poor people in it still. The Amethi poorhouse was closed by the end of August. Those at Kadipur and Musāfirkhāna ceased to exist as soon as the spring crops came in, and were never reopened. All relief of every kind was stayed at the end of September, as the new rice crop was in by then, and no further need for help remained. The small balance which we had kept over in reserve to help the very poorest cultivators to procure seed grain for the coming harvest was duly disbursed to them early in the month of October, thus finally concluding all operations under the *agis* of the Fund in this district.

F. W. BROWNRIGG, C.S.

42.—PARTABGARH.

Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. 563, dated 8th
December 1897.
Receipt no. 1196.

In forwarding the final report on the working of the Fund in this district, I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice the valuable services rendered by Pandit Kishan Lal, the Honorary Secretary of the Local Relief Committee. He has from the first devoted a great deal of time and trouble to the management of the funds placed at the disposal of the local committee and has rendered every assistance in his power. My cordial thanks are due to him. My share of the work was light: the main portion of it fell on Pandit Kishan Lal's shoulders. Thanks are also due to Saiyid Kurban Ali, Munsif of Partābgarh, who gave great help in distributing the relief, and also to Babu Bhajan Lal, Deputy Collector, who acted as Honorary Accountant of the Fund. The willing way in which all, and especially the above-mentioned gentlemen, gave their services is worthy of high commendation. Rāja Partab Bahadur Singh, the chairman of the committee, has, as usual, shown his liberal spirit, both by subscribing to the general fund of the district and also by the direct distribution of relief. I wish there were more taluqdārs like him in the district.

W. R. TUCKER,

Deputy Commissioner.

Report by the Honorary Secretary, Local Committee, Partābgarh.

Area affected by famine.

THE whole area of the Partābgarh district, comprising 923,542 acres, was affected by famine. The effect of the famine was felt equally in every part of the district.

Condition of the crop
sown.

2. The estimated state of the standing crop of each tahsil was made by different officers and they corresponded so nearly that it may be said that the state of affairs was the same throughout the district, and there was no large area in which any particular crop had been more damaged than in the rest of the district. The crop which had suffered most was the rice, which is the most important of all the *kharif* crops and occupies nearly 154,000 acres. The larger part of this district was under *jarhan* or transplanted rice which had altogether withered up and practically gave no outturn at all. The rest was the early rice which was damaged by the break in the rains at the end of July and gave an insignificant outturn.

The two crops which came next in importance were *juār* and *bājra* with or without *arhar*. The early cessation of the rains had naturally damaged the former

more than the latter as it ripens later. The pulses and *muth* were more seriously injured and their outturn was very poor. In short the only food crops which had produced anything were *mandua*, *kakun*, and mixed Indian-corn.

The *rabi* was, however, a far better crop than the *kharif* and was perhaps better than in many other districts. The late sown crops were damaged to some extent by the blowing of hot westerly winds in February 1897. The early-sown crops in which the seed had formed were not affected. The outturn varied from 8 annas for sugarcane, peas and *masur* to 13 annas for *birra* (gram and barley) and *gojai* (wheat and barley). *Arhar* yielded a 10-anna crop and wheat and barley 11 annas each.

3. The state of the people throughout the district was most serious. They had been considerably impoverished by a succession of poor seasons, and before they could recover from the effects of them this calamity fell upon them. The effect of the scarcity was more seriously felt than the one in 1877-78 as the latter was one bad year after good ones, while the former was a worse one after a series of bad ones. Old women were seen every where gathering grass seeds from which they extracted a scanty meal.

Condition of the people.

4. At about the close of October 1896 a meeting was convened to form a committee to supervise the management of the poorhouse and to advise and assist the Collector in the management thereof. A meeting was again held to raise subscriptions for the purpose of supporting the poor and the needy. Liberal subscriptions amounting to Rs. 3,477-8-0 were received. Out of this subscription money Rs. 1,046-5-0 was spent before the Charitable Relief Fund was constituted in supplying clothing to the inmates of the poorhouses. The remaining sum of Rs. 2,431-3-0 was amalgamated with the Fund (*vide* Local Committee's Resolution, dated 3rd March 1897). The total receipts from the Mansion House Fund amounted to Rs. 57,450. Thus a total sum of Rs. 60,927-8-0 was at the disposal of the local Charitable Fund Committee. Out of this sum Rs. 59,597-11-4 in all was spent up to 31st October 1897 under the following objects. Rupees 261-2-8 more were spent after the end of October and the balance Rs. 1,068-9-0 was remitted to the Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee, Allahabad :—

Organization of district system of relief.

					Rs.	a.	p.
Under object	I	...	...	...	5,789	10	5
Ditto	II	...	...	...	17	8	3
Ditto	III	...	...	...	2,094	6	0
Ditto	IV	...	...	...	51,511	15	9
Miscellaneous		...	...	...	184	2	11
Total				...	59,597	11	4

The expenditure under object I was devoted to the following purposes:—

- (1) Giving better food in poorhouses.
- (2) Clothing inmates of poorhouses.
- (3) Washing and shaving charges of poorhouses.
- (4) Supplementing the Government dolo of gratuitous relief.

The relief under heads 1, 2, and 3 was given through officers in charge of poorhouses, through subdivisional officers and through a few members who were entrusted with this work by the committee. Saiyid Kurban Ali, Munsif, and Saiyid Ahmad Husain, Subordinate Judge, took an active part in this work. For the purpose of supplementing Government dolo in gratuitous relief a sum of Rs. 2,053-9-9 was made over by the Committee to the Deputy Commissioner, with the request that he would kindly have this amount distributed with the Government dolo through the distributors under his own management, and forward an account of the amount spent weekly. This was properly done and the accounts thereof received punctually and properly.

Object II.—The expenditure under this head was made after the close of the famine in the district. When the poorhouses in the district were closed and orphans removed

to the dispensary it was proposed that these orphans be supported for three months from the savings of this Fund and they were supported for about a month from the Fund, when the Government took charge of the orphans and ordered that the orphans should be supported from Government funds. A sum of Rs. 17-8-3 was thus spent before October 31st in supporting the orphans. The number of orphans was 18. Of these two were taken charge of by co-religionists and one has died.

Object III.—Rupees 2,094-6-0 was spent in relieving respectable persons. The distribution of doles was made through the subdivisional officers Pandit Raghubar Dial Misra and Shaikh Kefait-ullah, members, and Pandit Kishen Lal Misra as the Secretary of the Fund. The two members voluntarily undertook this work and arranged to distribute the doles properly, and the sincere thanks of the committee are due to them.

Object IV.—On receipt of letter No. 88, dated 31st March 1897, from the Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee, the local committee, in its resolution, dated 9th April 1897, resolved that the money proposed to be distributed to cultivators and other artisans be made over to the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner on receipt of this proposal issued orders directing the tahsildárs to have the list of the cultivators actually in need of relief prepared through the patwáris, who were ordered to have each entry verified by the zamindárs or talúqdárs of the villages. On receipt of these lists in the office they were checked and sent to the subdivisional officers with the money for distribution. From these lists a register was prepared by each subdivisional officer on which the receipts of the recipients were taken together with two witnesses and kept in the office as vouchers in support of the charges. The whole amount thus distributed was given only to cultivators for cattle and seed. Nothing was paid to artisans as it did not appear that they were in need of relief.

Miscellaneous.—A sum of Rs. 184-2-11 was spent towards establishment and contingencies; on the commencement of the operations the following establishment was entertained:—

One clerk at Rs. 15 per mensem.

Allowance to District Board's Clerk Rs. 10 per mensem.

One peon at Rs. 5 per mensem.

But subsequently on a suggestion from the Provincial Committee that the expenditure on establishment was high, the services of the peon were dispensed with and the allowance was discontinued. Thus the only expenditure charged to the Fund was the pay of a clerk. The District Board's clerk and peon gave their services without remuneration.

Constitution of the local committee.

5. The committee was constituted of the following gentlemen:—

(1) Rája Partab Bahadur Singh	Chairman.
(2) Pandit Kishen Lal Misra	Secretary.
(3) Rája Rampál Singh	Members.
(4) Rai Madho Parsad Singh ...	...
(5) Thakur Raghu Nath Singh ...	...
(6) Thakur Suraj Narain Singh ...	...
(7) Khan Bahadur S. Ahmad Husain Khan ...	...
(8) Lála Payag Din ...	...
(9) Sheikh Kifait-ul-lah ...	...
(10) C. E. Crawford, Esq. ...	...
(11) Saiyid Ahmad Hussain ...	...
(12) Mir Qurban Ali ...	...
(13) Pandit Raghubar Dial Misra	
(14) M. Munna Lal	

In the meeting of the 9th April 1897 it was resolved that a working committee of the following persons be formed to transact the ordinary business :—

(1) C. E. Crawford, Esq. ...	...	...	Chairman.
(2) Pandit Kishen Lal Misra...	...	...	Secretary.
(3) Pandit Raghubar Dial Misra	...	...	} Members.
(4) Sheikh Kifait-ullah ...	...	...
(5) M. Munna Lal ...	...	...

Mr. Crawford, as chairman of the working committee, took a very keen interest in the work, and it was through his valuable advice and help that I could manage to get through the hard work ; and I am in duty bound to render my heartfelt thanks to him. I may add that he subscribed Rs. 175 to the fund at the disposal of the committee. When Mr. Crawford was transferred from this district Babu Bhajan Lal, Deputy Collector, was elected as a member of the general committee and chairman of the working committee. Babu Bhajan Lal was also the Honorary Accountant. He managed the accounts very minutely and carefully, and deserves much credit for the accounts being kept in an efficient manner. When he was transferred to Gouda Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar, Deputy Collector, was elected as Accountant ; but owing to his being the Treasury Officer and also in charge of the District Jail he could hardly find much time to devote to the honorary work cast on him. However he cheerfully did all the work that was laid before him. Out of the members, Rája Rampal Singh took no share in the committee's working and made no contribution. He may have helped the poor in some other way. Rája Partab Bahadur Singh, the chairman of the general committee, munificently contributed to the fund a sum of Rs. 2,500, the largest amount subscribed in the district. He assisted the committee in many other ways also. He promised, and kept that promise, that he would help the poor residing in his estate under object I, distributing cloth and doles from his private purse. The noble Rája deserves the thanks of the committee for this worthy and excellent work of charity. Shaikh Ahmed Husain, Khan Bahadur, of Pargawan, though unable to attend meetings of the committee owing to ill-health, contributed what he could towards the fund and took upon himself the duty of distributing cloth to the poor. The late lamented Rai Madho Prasad Singh was confined to bed owing to a severe attack of paralysis to which he succumbed, and could not help the committee beyond distributing some cloth to the deserving poor residing on his estate. The remaining members of the committee rendered all sorts of assistance in their power in the work.

Babu Shyam Lal, the District Board clerk, has gratuitously discharged all the clerical work of the committee, specially the keeping up of the accounts. He has been recommended for consideration in recognition of his services. The special clerk has also worked well.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I shall be wanting in duty if I fail in this place to express the gratitude of the committee to the District Officer of the district, Mr. W. R. Tucker, for the prompt and valuable assistance he rendered in every way possible, though at no small personal sacrifice. He was ever ready to help me out of the difficulties thrown in my way in the discharge of the onerous and responsible duties thrown on me.

KISHAN LAL MISRA,

Honorary Secretary, Local Relief Committee.

THE district of Bara Banki is bounded on the north-east by Gogra. The southern part is traversed by the Gumti. There are no canals or any other ready means of irrigation. Along the Gogra the chief crop grown is rice, which in fact is the principal crop of the district. The other important crops grown are *kodon*, *bájra*, and maize in the *kharif* and wheat and peas in the *rabi*. The *kharif* crop is the larger of the two. The inhabitants are mostly agriculturists or agricultural

43.—BARA BANKI.
Deputy Commissioner's
letter no. ⁴⁸⁵ XIII-18, dat.
ed 7th December 1897.
Receipt no. 1193.
(a) Preliminary

labourers whose mainstay is the *kharif* produce. Generally, they subsist upon their *kharif* crop throughout the year and pay their rents and provide other necessities for themselves from the produce of the *rabi* crop. There is no large trade or industry capable of giving employment to a large number of people. No special custom of immigration exists among the people. The famine affected the whole of the district, the most affected parts being Dewa and Kursi in the west, Nawábganj in the south and Haidargarh and Subeha in the south-west. The tahsil of Sanehighát, which stretches along the Gogra, suffered comparatively little. It includes a large portion of taráí where the rice crop did not suffer so much as elsewhere and is traversed throughout its entire length by the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, rendering communication easy.

2. The crops obtained during three years preceding the cold weather of 1896-97 were the ordinary crops of the district mentioned above, but the produce was on the whole somewhat below the average, and even before the cessation of rains in the latter part of August 1896 the prices of food grains were higher than usual. Hot westerly winds followed close upon the cessation of rains and the crops, which were hitherto hopeful, withered owing to want of moisture. The rice crops, the principal produce of the district, was almost an entire failure except in the taráí, where it was better, and the other crops—*juar*, *kodon*, maize and *bajra*—gave a very small produce. The average produce of the *kharif* crops may be put down at between 4 and 5 annas in the rupee.

(5) Organization of system of relief.

3. As soon as signs of distress became visible a meeting of *raíses* and *taluqdárs* was held at Bara Banki so early as 9th September 1896, and they were induced to help their tenantry. Subscription lists were opened and money began to come in, while men in need of relief who were fit for work were sent on test works opened from Government money, poorhouses were opened with the aid of subscription money

Name of poorhouse.	Date of opening.	Date of closing.	for the reception of heggars and indigent persons. The annexed table gives the dates of opening and closing of poorhouses in this district. When one poorhouse was closed its inmates were transferred to another poorhouse. The Sadar poorhouse was the last to be closed. On the 15th December 1896 the district was divided into 19 circles corresponding with the supervisor <i>kánungos</i> circles for the relief of the poor and respectable persons and <i>parda-nashins</i> , and twenty-two sub-committees were formed for the administration of relief in towns as per table given below:—
Nawábganj ...	20th Oct. '96	31st Aug. '97	
Fatehpur ...	19th Dec. '96	20th Aug. '97	
Bahramghát ...	24th Dec. '96	21st Feb. '97	
Kursi ...	19th Dec. '96	20th Feb. '97	
Sanehighát ...	19th Dec. '96	18th Aug. '97	
Haidargarh ...	24th Oct. '96	19th Aug. '97	
Radauli ...	1st Nov. '96	23rd Jan. '97	
Zaidpur ...	1st Jan. '97	23rd Jan. '97	

Sub-Committees.

Tahsil Nawábganj—(1) Zaidpur, (2) Satrikh, (3) Rasauli, (4) Nawábganj, (5) Masauli, (6) Dewa, (7) Bara Banki.

Tahsil Fatehpur—(8) Bado Serai, (9) Hazratpur, (10) Rámnagar, (11) Fatehpur, (12) Kursi, (13) Kintoor.

Tahsil Sanehighát—(14) Tikaitnagar, (15) Radauli, (16) Aliabad, (17) Ichauli, (18) Mowai, (19) Dariabad.

Tahsil Haidargarh—(20) Haidargarh, (21) Subeha, (22) Sidhaur.

Relief in the form of cash for food and clothing or for clothing only in villages was distributed through supervisor *kánungos* and in the towns through the sub-committees. No grain was distributed except once in Sanehighát. The scope of operations for the sub-committees and supervisor *kánungos* having been defined the two agencies did not clash with each other. Orphans were kept in poorhouses and looked after along with the other inmates. The distribution of relief under object IV was carried out entirely through subdivisional officers and the Special Manager.

of the Court of Wards. List of tenants deserving of aid under this object were originally prepared by supervisor *kanúngos* under the supervision of the *tahsídárs* and checked personally by the subdivisional officers. Money under this object was distributed by the subdivisional officers at the *tahsil* headquarters. The beggars and indigent persons as well as orphans had eight poorhouses opened for them at all suitable places in the district.

4. There were 22 sub-committees and 19 circle officers for the distribution of relief under object III. The circle officers prepared the lists under object IV, also having taken into consideration the circumstances of all needy cultivators in their circle. It will thus be seen that the chain of agency for the distribution of relief under each of the four objects was complete, and that it was so distributed throughout the district that relief was easily within reach of any one needing it. Although the agencies for the administration of relief given by Government and that given from the fund were the same, great care was taken that the two systems of relief were not mixed up. In the case of poorhouses the cost of construction or fitting up poorhouses was borne entirely by the fund except for three of them, *i.e.* Nawábganj, Behramghát and Fatehpur, for which Government money was expended. Until the receipt of Government aid all expenditure in poorhouses, including maintenance of paupers, and of establishment, &c., was paid for by the fund, after which the expenditure from it was limited to objects other than the feeding and the cost of establishment, which were borne by Government. Clothing to poorhouse inmates was supplied entirely from the fund money. Orphans were dealt with along with other inmates, and on the closing of the last poorhouse at Nawábganj they were transferred to the permanent poorhouse of this district and a contribution made to that institution for their support from Fund money.

5. Under object III relief from the Fund was administered only before the Government relief began and after it had ceased. Except once in April, the two systems of relief did not work simultaneously. Even in the one case mentioned above money for distribution had been advanced long before, but it was actually disbursed in April. This is a small sum amounting to Rs. 39-6-0.

6. Under object IV the whole of the relief was, since the receipt of remittances from the Provincial Fund, administered from Fund money. The two forms of relief did not overlap each other, and the Fund money was disbursed solely for its legitimate purposes and for purposes of relief of all sorts before Government aid was given or after it had ceased.

7. The statement accompanying this report will show the several kinds of relief given from the Fund. These comprise under object I—(a) clothing, including blankets, and cash for clothing, both in and out of poorhouses; (b) rations and comforts to the inmates of poorhouses before Government aid was given; (c) cash to persons discharged from poorhouses to meet expenses on the way to their homes; (d) contribution to permanent poorhouse for the maintenance of orphans; (e) cash and grain to respectable poor and *parda-nashins*; (f) money gifts to artisans and others; (g) money gifts for cattle and seed to cultivators; (h) gifts of cattle to cultivators.

Besides the above general objects, money amounting to Rs. 35 was given to two *ekkarwálas* to enable them to purchase ponies for their *ekkas* and earn their livelihood, and a sum of Rs. 4-2-6 was spent in giving a decent burial to a person of respectability. Each and all of these forms of relief were suitable to the particular cases where they were adopted, and the scope of the operation of these forms of relief extended over the whole district, and as explained above, the agencies were so distributed that suitable relief was within the reach of every person in need of it. Under object IV the lists of tenants deserving relief were personally scrutinized by the subdivisional officers and relief was refused where it was not found needed.

Some of the tenants owing to caste prejudices refused to take charity or returned the amount they had received. This money was given out to other deserving persons.

Besides the subscriptions realized locally and the money received from the Provincial Committee, a sum of Rs. 858-2-1, which was in hand on account of Shagoon Fund, a Fund created in the district for annual shows, was transferred to the Famine Fund and is included in the total of local subscriptions. The relief operations were wound up on the 31st October 1897. The district committee was dissolved by a formal vote on the 27th September 1897.

(c) Among the persons who have rendered special services may be mentioned the names of Babu Jiva Ram, Superintendent of the Nawábganj poorhouse, and Babu Girja Pershad, Secretary of the poorhouse committee, Nawábganj. These gentlemen are pleaders and they perform the work allotted to them cheerfully and zealously even at the sacrifice of their practice. Pandit Suraj Narain, Subordinate Judge, presided over the Nawábganj relief committee and gave much time and care to the supervision of relief.

The brunt of supervision outside the town fell on the officers of the district staff noted on the margin. It was largely due to their efforts that the money for re-establishing ruined cultivators was distributed with such success. The Tahsildárs P. Kidar Nath, M. Nand Kishore, M. Kamta Parshad, M. Abdul Aziz, and M. Sidik Ali Khan also gave efficient assistance. Great help was also given by Shaikh Haidar Husain, landowner of Fatehpur, and Lala Hazari Lal, merchants of Haidargarh, who superintended the poorhouses at those places. Finally the committee was much indebted to Babu Tulsi Ram, Deputy Collector and Honorary Accountant, for his careful supervision of the accounts and correspondence connected with the administration of the fund.

W. H. MORELAND, C.S.

APPENDIX F.

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION AND REVIEW OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND ACCOUNTS, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

To—The Honorary Secretary to the Provincial Executive Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Allahabad.

Dated Allahabad, the 22nd December 1897.

SIR,

As directed in paragraph 2 of letter No. 1605, dated the 31st August 1897, of the Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary, Central Executive Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Calcutta, I have the honor to submit the following report on the examination and review of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund accounts of these Provinces.

2. The results of the examination of the accounts of each district have been communicated in detail in the weekly extracts from my audit diary, and the report therefore deals with the general remarks applicable to the accounts as a whole and with the chief irregularities detected in individual districts.

3. In accordance with the instructions of the Provincial Executive Committee

1. Allahabad.	11. Lucknow.	the accounts of the districts specified in the margin have been examined. The total expenditure incurred in these districts comes to Rs. 39,13,084 out of the total expenditure of *Rs. 48,28,512 incurred from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in these Provinces. My examination therefore covers about 81 per cent. of the total charges,
2. Banda.	12. Hardoi.	
3. Jhansi.	13. Sháhjahánpur.	
4. Agra.	14. Unao.	
5. Cawnpore.	15. Rae Bareilly.	
6. Jalaun.	16. Partábgarh.	
7. Hamírpur.	17. Saltanpur.	
8. Fatehpur.	18. Fyzabad.	
9. Mirzapur.	19. Jaunpur.	
10. Gorakhpur.		

* This was the approximate figure given in the preliminary returns up to 31st October 1897.

and its results may be fairly extended to the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund throughout the United Provinces.

4. Confining my remarks to the objects of the examination defined by the Government of India in paragraph 4 of their Famine Department letter no. ^{2785F.} ₁₈₉₋₁₀, dated the 18th August 1897, I may say (1) that there was not a single district visited by me where accounts of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund had not been kept in some shape or other, in the greater number of cases methodically and systematically, and in the rest tolerably fairly, excepting Agra and Gorakhpur, where the accounts were not well kept up on the whole; (2) that ignoring stray individual cases, an efficient check was exercised over the expenditure met from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund; and (3) that the Fund money was without any appreciable exception expended on the prescribed objects of the Fund.

5. The agency employed for carrying on the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was not generally accustomed to methodical maintenance of accounts: but actuated by a sense of responsibility and the great trust placed in them, as also by the pressure of requisitions for periodical accounts issued by the Provincial Executive Committee, the almoners and distributors were generally careful to keep the accounts of the disbursements up to date, and distribution lists and vendors' vouchers were in the greater number of cases promptly submitted when they were asked for in connection with the examination of the Charity Fund accounts.

6. The greater portion of the Fund money was devoted in these Provinces, as elsewhere, for object IV, and this was the most important item in the examination of the Fund accounts. Out of the total sum of *Rs. 35,38,404 spent in these Provinces under this head, the expenditure of Rs. 29,13,062 came under my review and was proved in full, with the exception of some items, by distribution lists. In these cases the non-production of the lists was invariably due to their having being in use at the time of the examination of the accounts, excepting those of the Kalpi relief circle of the Jalaun district, where no distribution lists had been regularly kept. Rough distribution notes and tickets and a certificate of distribution by the almoner were, however, furnished in proof of the distribution there also.

7. The chief irregularity, found in almost all the districts visited by me, was in connection with the computation of persons relieved under head III. Where families had been relieved by cash doles, all the members receiving the doles, instead of the head of the family, were counted as separate units. The prevalence of this erroneous method of computation was I think due to the instructions on this point having been received late from the Central Executive Committee. Misclassification of charges was also in some instances detected: but the amounts involved were not large, and they were in almost all cases rectified in the final statistical returns.

8. In some districts officers on tour were directed by the District officers to verify from the actual recipients the distributions made to them for object III by the subordinate district staff. One or two defalcations of small amounts were, I was informed, detected, and duly dealt with by the local authorities. I did not, however, take any action in such matters, as my examination was confined to documents and accounts produced before me, and if they were correct and regular no further steps were needed.

9. The remarks recorded below show the chief irregularities detected in the district accounts:—

Agra.—(a) The† credits of local subscriptions amounting to Rs. 150, realized in November and December 1896, were not traceable in the cash accounts; (b) some of the object IV distribution lists were very badly drawn up, without any totals, and in one of them there was a ‡ deficit of Rs. 120.

* This was the approximate figure given in the preliminary returns up to 31st October 1897.

† This has since been satisfactorily explained. The contributions mentioned were in reality not money subscriptions to the Fund.

‡ Receipts since obtained for this.

*REPORT of the operations of the Indian Famine
Charitable Relief Fund after 31st October 1897
in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, with
Statistical Tables.*

Report of the operations of the Fund after the 31st of October 1897 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

UPON the 31st of October 1897 the balance in the hands of the Committees in these Provinces amounted to Rs. 3,22,433-11-0. Rupees 76-10-0 was returned to the Central Committee on the 27th of November. District Committees received further subscriptions amounting to Rs. 1,873-14-1, and Rs. 3,560-15-8 was received from sale of thread and manufactured cloth: the total sum at the disposal of the Committees after the 31st of October being thus Rs. 3,27,791-14-9.

Only the following remittances were made to districts by the Provincial Committee after the 31st of October 1897:—

(a) For purchase of quinine to—

					Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Pilibhit	1,177	11	6			
Muttra	135	14	8			
Partabgarh	78	8	0			

(b) For the poorhouse to—

Allahabad				1,392	2	2
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(c) For support of orphans to—

Allahabad	1,599	1	9			
Gorakhpur	546	1	2			
Unao	22	0	0			

(d) For pay of establishment to—

Allahabad	...	...	...	...				2,167	2	11
								18	12	0
Total								3,849	1	6

On the other hand refunds, amounting to Rs. 1,53,237-2-6 were received from District Committees by the Executive Committee, while the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branches also paid in their closing balances, Rs. 19,156-13-6 and Rs. 12,111-11-2 respectively. In the statement of receipts given in Form D four committees, viz. those of Agra, Lucknow city, Lucknow district, and Fyzabad, are shown as having a minus quantity of total receipts. The meaning of this is that they received after the 31st of October 1897 refunds of sums originally shown as expended, and they were thus able to return to the Provincial Committee sums larger than their closing balance on the 31st of October 1897. The net amount expended from the 31st of October 1897 to the close of operations was Rs. 63,807-10-4. Rupees 1,288-14-6 of this was expended in miscellaneous charges by the Provincial Committee and its branches. The remaining Rs. 62,518-11-10 was expended in districts in the following manner:—

Object	I	...	...	...	...	Rs.	a.	p.
Ditto	II	...	...	...	...	9,631	13	2
Ditto	III	...	...	...	...	12,128	11	5
Ditto	IV	(net refund)	—70	14	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	27,035	11	9
						13,490	6	0	
					Total	...	62,518	11	10

It has not been thought necessary to prepare for this sum a statement in Form B similar to that which accompanies the report of the operations up to the 31st of October 1897. The following is a brief account of the principal items comprised under each of the heads:—

Object I.—The largest entries which go to make up the sum of Rs. 9,634-13-2 are as follow:—

					Rs.	a.	p.
Pilibhit	...	...	...	...	1,622	0	5
Cawnpore	...	...	...	...	1,761	4	4
Banda	...	...	...	...	3,397		3
Mirzapur	...	...	...	...	1,281	11	1
Bara Banki	...	...	...	...	312	6	4

The expenditure in Pilibhit was on account of quinine, which had already been received and distributed. That in Cawnpore was spent upon the infirmary in which number of famine patients continued to be supported. In Banda the expenditure was mainly in valedictory doles to persons in poorhouses and in paying bills for

previous periods. In Mirzapur, as in Cawnpore, a number of famine patients remained in an infirmary. The greater part of the expenditure in Bara Banki was for quinine. Against Fyzabad there is a *minus* entry under this heading of Rs. 516-15-3. This is due to a refund received from the Government of charges incurred in building a poorhouse which were originally met from the Fund. The statistics of numbers relieved under this heading can be obtained with sufficient accuracy from the fortnightly returns for the period ending the 15th and 30th of November, and the 15th and the 31st of December, which have already been furnished to the Central Committee.

Object II.—The principal items going to make up the total of Rs. 12,428-11-5 under this heading are sums of Rs. 2,314-15-11, Rs. 1,277-13-3, and Rs. 568-7-3 respectively in Allahabad, Gorakhpur, and Hardoi, which were required for the support of orphans pending their distribution to orphanages under Government orders; and the large sum of Rs. 7,833, which was paid by the Cawnpore Local Committee to a Hindu orphanage at Cawnpore in a lump sum at the close of operations in pursuance of a resolution passed in July 1897 to make that orphanage a monthly allowance at Rs. 2 per orphan from August 1896 onwards till the orphans could support themselves. All the remittances made by the Provincial Committee to the Cawnpore district were entirely used up in relief given in the district outside the city; all the expenditure in the city was made from the large local subscriptions of the place; and the balance (Rs. 32,170-6-4) on the 31st of October 1897 consisted entirely of local subscriptions. The Provincial Committee was therefore unable to control the Local Committee's expenditure in this respect.

Object III.—The only amounts to be noticed as going to make up the net refund of Rs. 70-14-6 under this head are the following sums: an expenditure of Rs. 1,997-2-6 in the Banda district in payment of charges previously incurred, and refunds in the Agra and Allahabad districts of Rs. 885-4-11 and Rs. 1,988-0-1 previously shown as expended.

Object IV.—The distribution of funds under this object had not been entirely completed or brought to account in the districts of Farukhabad, Banda, Allahabad, and Hardoi on the 31st of October. These districts therefore show charges amounting to Rs. 821-0-9, Rs. 9,204-8-0, Rs. 6,334 and Rs. 11,420-12-0 respectively under this head. On the other hand Rs. 1,000, shown as expended in Lucknow district in the previous statement, was refunded after the 31st of October 1897.

Miscellaneous.—The only item requiring notice under this head is the entry of Rs. 12,573-2-0 in Cawnpore. Of this large sum very nearly the whole, namely Rs. 12,557-15-6, was made over with the consent of the local subscribers to the committee of the permanent infirmary established in Cawnpore in which the famine patients and others are being supported. As this money was part of the local subscriptions, as has already been stated, the expenditure was not subject to the control of the Provincial Committee. It may however be noted that the Local Committee contributed out of its balance a sum of Rs. 10,000 towards the provincial provision for orphans.

The balance in the hands of the Provincial Committee on the 14th January 1898 was Rs. 2,63,984-4-5, which is being made over to the Local Government for the permanent maintenance of orphans.

From the beginning of February 1897 to the 24th January 1898 the total income and expenditure of the Fund in these Provinces was as follows:—

Total income and expenditure of the Fund in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh from the beginning to end of operations.

Income.

				Rs.	a.	p.
Received from Central Committee	...	...	...	46,68,687	2	1
Provincial subscriptions	...	...	...	4,76,471	5	0
Receipts from sale of goods, interest, &c.	...	...	...	6,353	8	7
Total	...	...	...	51,51,611	15	8

Expenditure.

						Rs.	a.	p.
Object I	...	...	...	...	...	2,63,594	12	5
Do. II	...	...	...	...	...	24,399	12	0
Do. III	...	...	...	...	...	9,66,296	0	11
Do. IV	...	...	...	...	...	35,88,269	3	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	24,947	14	0
Closing balance	...	...	...	...	...	2,63,984	4	5
Total					...	51,51,511	15	8

The Provincial Committee was dissolved on the 24th January 1898, having been in existence for just one year.

JOHN EDGE,

President of the Provincial Committee;

N.-W. P. and Oudh.

24th January 1898.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from 1st November 1897 to end of operations.

Serial number.	Name of district.	Receipts.			Receipts not intended for the district.				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Opening balance, if any.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial Committee.	Other receipts, miscellaneous.	Total receipts.	Subscriptions realized for India generally.	Subscriptions realized for the province, including sums realized for other districts of the same province.	Subscriptions realized for other provinces.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	
1	Dehra Dún	...	137 0 0	-3,697 7 1	2,675 2 2	-885 4 11	...	...	...
2	Agra	...	...	135 14 8	...	135 14 8	...	...	...
3	Muttra	830 3 0	33 7 0	-51 7 3	...	812 2 9	...	...	...
4	Farrukhabad	2,594 7 2	...	-2,350 0 4	...	244 6 10	...	...	...
5	Etawah	128 6 2	...	-128 6 2	...	...	...	...	...
6	Etah	242 9 7	...	-242 9 7	...	...	...	...	...
7	Bijnor	939 11 8	67 0 0	-695 1 3	...	...	...	...	...
8	Moradabad	497 11 9	...	*1,144 4 8	...	311 10 0	...	...	...
9	Pilibhit	32,170 6 4	...	-10,000 0 0	...	1,642 0 5	...	...	...
10	Cawnpore	1,021 15 3	...	-157 2 0	...	22,170 6 4	...	...	...
11	Fatehpur	19,593 13 7	797 0 0	-35,492 4 6	...	864 13 3	...	...	...
12	Banda	6,857 6 6	...	-6,734 15 6	...	14,898 9 1	...	...	...
13	Hamiapur	24,051 14 3	300 0 0	-17,352 11 4	...	122 7 0	...	...	...
14	Allahabad	1,646 3 8	...	-1,497 8 3	...	6,999 2 11	...	...	...
15	Jalaun	3,412 2 8	...	-3,266 9 9	...	48 11 5	...	...	...
16	Benares	2,335 2 5	50 0 0	-1,030 15 0	3 8 9	145 8 11	...	...	...
17	Mirzapur	2,338 9 2	...	-2,338 9 2	...	1,357 12 2	...	...	...
18	Jaunpur	86 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Ghazipur	239 8 10	...	-239 8 10	...	86 12 0	...	...	...
20	Ballia	8,780 14 5	...	-7,372 9 8	...	...	...	...	...
21	Gerakhpur	832 15 0	...	-730 15 0	...	1,408 4 9	...	...	...
22	Basti	4,662 8 4	...	-4,296 7 0	...	102 0 0	...	...	...
23	Azamgarh	...	...	...	...	366 1 4	...	...	...
24	Bulandshahr	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Naini Tal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total, North-Western Provinces	1,43,163 5 4	1,384 7 0	-96,395 0 4	2,678 10 11	50,931 6 11	...	...	...
26	Lucknow city	0 6 3	...	-2 2 3	...	-1 12 0	...	...	...
27	Ditao district	782 8 11	...	-1,691 15 2	...	-909 6 3	...	...	...
28	Unao	4,997 6 1	...	-4,978 10 1	...	18 12 0	...	...	...
29	Rao Bareilly	500 9 3	...	-500 9 3	...	...	...	...	...
30	Sitapur	1,896 14 10	...	-1,774 3 10	...	122 11 0	...	...	...
31	Hardoi	39,371 4 9	...	-28,241 14 3	582 4 9	12,011 11 3	...	...	...
32	Kheri	4,164 12 7	...	-4,224 5 11	...	240 6 8	...	...	...
33	Fyzabad	1,694 11 3	...	-2,211 10 6	...	-516 15 3	...	...	...
34	Gonda	1,331 9 6	...	-1,261 14 0	...	69 11 6	...	...	...
35	Partibgarh	1,329 12 8	...	-990 1 0	...	339 11 8	...	...	...
36	Bara Banki	1,096 10 9	...	-784 4 5	...	312 6 4	...	...	...
37	Oudh Public Works Department	6,332 6 0	...	-6,332 6 0	...	...	...	...	...
	Total, Oudh	63,799 0 10	...	-62,991 0 8	892 4 9	11,687 4 11	...	...	...
	GRAND TOTAL, N.-W. P. AND OUDH	2,06,962 6 2	1,384 7 0	-1,49,389 1 0	3,560 15 8	62,518 11 10	...	2,442 5 1	...

† Balance in hand on 1st November 1897.

* Net remittance.

† Net refund.

* Net remittance.

† Net refund.

‡ Balance in hand on 1st November 1897.

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from 1st November 1897 to end of operations.

Serial number.	Names of districts.	Payments.										Remittances of receipts not intended for the district.											
		Under object I.		Under object II.		Under object III.		Under object IV.		Miscellaneous.		Total expenditure.		Closing balance.		Total.		To Central Committee direct.		To Provincial or District Committees in other provinces.		Balance not yet remitted, if any.	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12										
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Dohra Dún	
2	Acra	
3	Mattra	135 14 8	
4	Parakhabad	-11 10 0	
5	Ekawah	229 10 4	18 1 0	
6	Bah	
7	Bijnor	
8	Moradabad	221 8 0	
9	Pilibhit	1,622 0 5	
10	Cawnpore	1,764 4 4	7,833 0 0	
11	Katchpur	190 4 3	97 13 0	
12	Banda	3,397 0 3	
13	Hamsapur	106 8 0	
14	Allahabad	270 0 5	2,314 15 11	
15	Jalaun	34 7 5	
16	Benares	
17	Mirzapur	1,261 11 1	2 13 6	
18	Jaunpur	...	8 8 11	
19	Ghazipur	
20	Ballia	
21	Gorakhpur	...	1,277 13 3	
22	Basti	66 1 1	
23	Azamgarh	271 3 8	27 12 8	
24	Bulandshahr	
25	Naini Tal	
Total, N.-W. Provinces		9,578 15 11	11,580 14 3	-239 5 6	16,558 15 9	13,351 14 6	50,831 6 11	...	50,831 6 11	
26	Lucknow city	
27	Ditto district	30 14 5	30 0 10	
28	Unao	-3 4 0	22 0 0	
29	Rae Bareilly	
30	Sitapur	100 0 0	
31	Hardoi	
32	Kheri	29 5 3	568 7 3	
33	Fyzabad	-516 15 3	128 5 5	
34	Gonda	
35	Partabgarh	108 6 6	69 11 6	
36	Barn Banki	312 6 4	29 4 2	
37	Oudh Public Works Department	
Total, Oudh		55 13 3	847 13 2	168 7 0	10,476 12 0	136 7 6	11,687 4 11	...	11,687 4 11	
GRAND TOTAL, N.-W.P. AND OUDH		9,634 13 2	12,428 11 5	-70 14 6	27,035 11 9	13,490 6 0	62,518 11 10	...	62,518 11 10	
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INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897-98.
PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.
Cash account from the commencement of operations up to its close.

* Rupees 835 received by the Central Committee on 21st August 1897 and intended specially for these Provinces was never remitted to this Committee.
† From the Nawab of Rampur.

FINAL REPORTS No. 6 (CENTRAL PROVINCES).

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

CENTRAL PROVINCES BRANCH.

Report of the Executive Committee, Central Provinces Provincial Branch, from February to October 1897.

It was just about this time last year that the conviction began to press itself upon the Government and the people that the territories constituting the Central Provinces were about to be involved in a calamity such as had not befallen them within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Since then "Famine" has overshadowed every other administrative question, and the one absorbing care of the Government has been how best to combat its ravages. To this end the carefully laid plans of past years were put into operation with a machine-like precision, and the organization for the distribution of State relief grew with the growth of the distress, until the high tide of misfortune might be said to have been reached about the end of May, when seven* hundred thousand people—men, women and children—out of a total population of about six millions and a quarter of the affected area, were absolutely dependent for their lives on the bounty of the Government. But, marvellous as was the rapidity and completeness with which the situation was grappled, and remarkable as was the energy and resources displayed in the struggle with starvation, the Government necessarily limited its aid to what was absolutely essential for preservation of life. Outside this there remained a wide field of usefulness for the operations of private charity. The response to India's appeal to private benevolence as an auxiliary to State relief has been a fund of unprecedented and colossal magnitude, and it will be my endeavour to narrate in this report how the portion of this noble Charity Fund assigned to the Central Provinces has been applied and administered for the relief of distress caused by the famine. The time has come, when this could and should be done; for we are now within a measurable distance of the end of the troubles and tribulations of the past twelve months, and although our operations will continue for a few weeks more, the main part of the work is over.

† 2. Of the eighteen districts which form the Central Provinces Administration, two, Saugor and Damoh, lie parallel to each other upon the Vindhyan table-land, and are physically connected with the country to the north, all the drainage of the area flowing into the Ganges valley. Immediately to the south, along the depression of the Nerbudda valley and its offshoots, lie the districts of Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad and Nimar (taking

* Actual numbers in receipt of relief for the five weeks ending the 29th May 1897.

On Relief works.	On Gratuitous relief.	Total.	On Railway and other private works.	Grand Total.	Population of the affected area on 29th May 1897.
495,586	207,413	702,999	209,000	911,999	6,168,000

† This and the four succeeding paragraphs are based on information to be found on the Central Provinces Gazetteer, the District Settlement Reports of 1866-67 and the Census Report of 1891.

them in order from east to west), which are in great part on alluvial deposits. South of the Nerbudda valley rises the high-land constructing the Satpura range, Mandla occupying the eastern end, and on the west lying the districts of Balaghat, Seoni, Chhindwara and Betul. Still southward is the Nagpur plain, formed by the valleys of the Wardha and the Wainganga, and lying in the great drainage basin of the Godavari, and comprising the districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, and Chanda. Eastward and below the ghats is the great Chhattisgarh plain, a low plateau of red soil, forming the upper basin of the Mahanadi and containing the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur. In this Division is included the district of Sambalpur. Thus within narrow limits follow each other a plateau and a plain, and again in similar sequence, a larger plateau and a larger plain, ending in a mass of hill and forests. Even the relatively level portions of the area are broken by isolated peaks and straggling hill ranges. In this tract of high-land and valley, coincident to a great extent with the ancient Gondawana, the kingdom of the Gonds, agriculture is mainly, if not wholly, dependent on the year's rainfall. It is only to the south-east, in the Bhandara and parts of the Chanda district, that there is anything like artificial irrigation on a large and systematic scale. In this what has been called the "lake region" of the Central Provinces, the country is dotted over with irrigation tanks. An irrigation tank is an irregular sheet of water, its banks formed by rugged hills, and its dyke, shaped out of spurs from them, thrown athwart the hollows. The largest of them, that at Nawa-gaon, has a circumference of 17 miles. By two short embankments, the waters of scores of hills have been impounded and turned into a lovely lake, which spreads its fertilising streams over large areas of surrounding cultivation. Its author, a simple village head man, has been aptly styled by a previous Chief Commissioner "a heaven-born engineer."

3. In the two Vindhyan table-land districts, Saugor and Damoh, the staple crop is wheat, which in Saugor is grown in 59 per cent. and in Damoh in 43 per cent. of the cultivated area. In the Nerbudda valley districts,

Crops generally grown.

in general, the black soil prevails, while in parts where hills abound, the surface is mixed with sand. Wheat is largely grown in this tract, and it has been described as "Green from end to end with wheat" in the cold weather. In Hoshangabad 57 per cent. of the cultivated area is under this crop. In Jubbulpore, in the rich haveli, or level tract, wheat and other *rabi* crops occupy 72 per cent. and *kharif* 28. In the remainder of the district rice and other autumn crops occupy 61 per cent. of the cropped area. Narsinghpur produces, besides, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, gram and minor cereals. Nimar chiefly grows *juar* and other monsoon crops, the lighter soil of the district being less adapted for the winter wheat crop. Of the Satpura districts, Mandla, though possessing large tracts of rich black soil, is, owing to the inaccessibility of the country and its insalubrity, very poorly cultivated. The population is mainly aboriginal, and the greater part of the cultivation is of the rudest possible description. The main crops are wheat, rice, *kodon*, and *kutki*. Five-sixths of the district is waste and forest land. To the south-west of Mandla lies Seoni, where the soil of two-thirds of the cultivated area is black soil, producing wheat. Towards the south, the surface contains a large proportion of clay, and rice is mostly grown here. To the east of Seoni is Chhindwara. It has two distinct natural divisions, the hill country above the slope of the Satpuras, which is very sparsely cultivated, and a tract of well-cultivated low-land beneath them. The crops raised are wheat and *juar*, and also cotton and oil-seeds. Betul, lying to the west of the plateau, is poorly cultivated, on the extreme western portion being a mass of hill and jungle inhabited by Gonds and Korkus (aborigines). The principal crops are wheat and pulses, and also sugarcane. Coming now to the Nagpur plain, the prevailing soil of the Nagpur district is black cotton-soil, the principal crops being wheat, which occupies 30 per cent., *juar* 25, cotton 12, and linseed 10 per cent. of the cultivated area. The Wardha district is a rich cotton-producing country, cotton covering a third of the cultivated area, the other crops being *juar*, wheat and linseed. Proceeding eastward we come to the Bhandara district. With the extensive irrigation made available by its numerous tanks, the staple produce is rice, which covers 53 per cent. of the cropped area, the other crops

being wheat and gram. To the north of Bhandara lies the district of Balaghat, which contains two well-marked natural divisions. The first of these is an undulating plateau, covered with dense jungle and very sparsely populated, the inhabitants being largely Gonds and Baigas (aborigines). It is landlocked, and communication with the outside world is practically cut off during the rains. The low-land portion closely resembles Bhandara which it touches. Rice is its principal product. In the fifth district of the Nagpur plain, Ohanda, the soil is mostly red or sandy, and the principal crop is rice. It is thickly wooded. In the centre of the great plain of the Ohháttsággarh lies the *Khalsa* or Government portion (as distinguished from the Feudatories) of the Raipur and Bilaspur districts. Only about 47 per cent. of the immense area comprising these districts is under cultivation. Rice is the staple produce, wheat, *kodon*, and other food-grains and pulses being also grown. In Sambalpur, too, the main crop is rice, it occupying in the *Khalsa* more than three-fourths of the cultivated area.

4. The vast majority of the people inhabiting the country described above are either agriculturists themselves, or dependent on agriculture in some shape or other for their livelihood. At the census of 1891, nearly

Agricultural population.

67 per cent. were returned under the head "pasture and agriculture." The percentage is probably higher, for as pointed out in the Census Report, nearly all labourers in the country are agricultural labourers, and should have been classed as such at the census, but were not. All the principal castes among Hindus, who number about four-fifths of the total population, are agriculturists. The Powars of the Wainganga valley rank high as agriculturists, and their cultivation is said to be almost scientific. From long practice they have acquired great skill in irrigation works, and an extraordinary eye for the levels of the country over which water is successfully carried by them for miles. The Kachhis, who are mostly to be found in the Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, and Hoshangabad districts, are also good cultivators noted for the excellence of their garden crops. The Kunbis are found in great strength in the Nagpur Province. They are also met with throughout the Nerbudda valley and in the Ohháttsággarh where they are called Kurmis. Everywhere the caste is known as a thrifty and hard-working class of cultivators. Their women take part in field work equally with the men, and their frugal habits and perseverance make them successful agriculturists. Lodhis are most strongly represented in the districts of Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, and Narsinghpur. As agriculturists, they are scarcely inferior to the Kurmis or Kunbis. The Ohamars in the Ohháttsággarh are a numerous class. Every fourth man in the Bilaspur district belongs to this section of the people. This is also true of many parts of the Raipur district. They are believed to be among the very first Aryan emigrants. They are fairly energetic and industrious cultivators and frugal in the extreme. On the whole, then, it may be said of the people generally that they are industrious, economical, and peaceable, and beyond their food requirements, their wants are of the fewest.

5. The forest and hill tribes form nearly a fifth of the population. The southern and northern parts of the Provinces

Aboriginal tribes.

received their Hindu element from different sources. To the Nerbudda valley and the country associated with it came the immigrants from Northern India, while the Nagpur territory was overflowed by Maratha-speaking tribes from the Berars and the Deccan. These two different streams of immigration met on the Satpura plateau, which may be said to constitute the natural boundary line between Northern and Southern India; and it was to these comparatively inhospitable and difficult regions that the aboriginal tribes retired on being pressed and displaced by the more powerful and better organized Aryan races. As time wore on and they gained confidence, some came down to the plains and occupied the valleys of the Nerbudda to the north and of the Wardha and Wainganga to the south. But the chief aboriginal stronghold is still the Satpura plateau. In Betul nearly a fourth of the population is Gond; in Ohhindwara the proportion is as high as three-sevenths; in Seoni, which

is a comparatively open country, it sinks into a third, rising again to one-half in the wild hill district of Mandla, where the last Gond kings held their sway. In Betul and Hoshangabad, *Korkus*, a hill race of a different stock, are found, their chief seat being the Pachmarhi group of hills. Further west in the Nimar district we come to the Bhil country. To the east, the natural fastnesses which hem in the head waters of the Sone and the Nerbudda, give a secure shelter to the wildest of all the hill tribes, the Baigas. These aboriginal tribes, generally, are too improvident and lazy to be good cultivators. They live from hand to mouth and prefer cultivating the *kodon* and *kutki*, which give large returns with but little trouble, and avoid the better classes of crops, which require greater expenditure of time and labour. Amongst the wildest classes, the sole heritage of a man is an axe and the veriest shred of a cloth attached to a string suffices to cover his nakedness. These people scorn regular cultivation and rear their crops under the wasteful system known as "*Dahya*," which consists in cutting down a patch of jungle, firing it in May, and throwing seed among the ashes. This germinates and springs up very fast after the first fall of monsoon rain. One patch of jungle yields at the outside for three years, and then a new tract is taken up, while the abandoned land does not recover itself for the next six or seven years. This style of cultivation is against their collecting in villages. A few families live together in some rude huts on the hill side, and even these they abandon if disturbed. They are great hunters and delight in a wandering life, which their system of cultivation and their superstition, which leads them to give up their homes on the slightest provocation, tend to foster in them. They are generally resourceless, and as their average condition is at no time good, any considerable failure, even of one year's food-crops, suffices to reduce them to great distress. And as they are very averse to leave their homes, and as it is not always practicable to have local works of improvements in their native hills and forests, it becomes a matter of no small difficulty to relieve them.

6. The Mahomedans are only 2·8 per cent. of the population. The great mass of them are immigrants from Northern India, though in the Maratha country a considerable number of them came from the Nizam's dominions. They have adopted many of the customs and practices of the Hindus, with whom their relations have always been one of amity and good fellowship. Only a few of them are agriculturists, and as agriculturists they are not so successful as their Hindu neighbours.

*7. As the Province mainly depends on the year's rainfall for its water-supply, the failure of the customary rains leads inevitably to the failure of the crops on which the subsistence of the people depends. But the present grievous famine, which has brought a population of most industrious and economical peasantry face to face with death from starvation, is not the result of a single unfavourable season. A single failure of crops could not so completely destroy the staying power of the people as to drive every seventh person† in the affected tracts to the relief works and institutions for aid to sustain life. This situation is the gradual growth of a series of bad years. The cycle of bad harvests in the Province generally may be said to have begun in the year 1894-95 with the loss, more or less severe, of both the monsoon (*kharif*) and the winter (*rabi*) crops. During October and November 1894, the rainfall was excessive, and the *kharif* crops were everywhere much below the average. The spring crops then on the ground were promising, but more rain than what was needed continued to fall off and on, and rust made its appearance with disastrous results to the young plants. Saugor partially escaped, but the damage caused in the open portion of Damoh and the rice-embanked lands of Jubbulpore was very serious. Had the next harvest (*kharif* of 1895) been assured by a copious and seasonable rainfall, hope and credit would have revived, and the people would have gradually recovered from the effect of the loss of two previous bad years. But 1895-96 proved, like its predecessor, a year of disappointment and disaster, with this difference that, whereas excessive rain brought about the misfortunes of the years preceding, scanty rain was the cause of the loss in 1895-96. The monsoon began

* This and the succeeding two paragraphs are based on official reports kindly placed at the disposal of our Committee by the Local Government.

† Total on relief works on 29th May (Government and private)	:	:	:	:	911,999.
Total population of affected area on 29th May	:	:	:	:	6,168,000.

early and continued with seasonable breaks till the middle of September, after which it abruptly ceased. For the rest of the month most of the districts received no rainfall, and where it fell it was partial and badly distributed. Thereafter, except for some showers in the Southern districts at the close of October, universal drought prevailed till the end of the agricultural year. The autumn crops on the ground were to a considerable extent blighted, the soil became too hard for the *rabi* to be sown, what was sown did not germinate properly, and what germinated withered for want of moisture. Greatest damage was done to unirrigated rice and the small millets, *kodon* and *kutki*, which form the main food of the poorer classes, while cotton and *juar*, which do well with a light rainfall, fared much better. Rice and *kodon* yielded from a quarter to a half of the normal in the Jubbulpore Division, and in the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur. In the Nerbudda Division rice is of less importance, and the outturn was between a half and three-quarters of the average. In the Nagpur Division, the yield of rice ranged between 40 and 60 per cent. of the average. Wheat yielded a bare half average over a much reduced area. Even this was not attained in Saugor, Damoh, Mandla, Bhandara, and Bilaspur, while Chanda, Wardha, and Ohhindwara were the only districts in which the outturn averaged 10 annas. Gram and other *rabi* pulses gave from a half to two-thirds of an average crop, and in Damoh, Mandla, Bhandara, and Bilaspur even this standard was not quite reached. It was to a people already hard hit that the drought of 1896-97 dealt a yet severer and crushing blow. The opening of the monsoon of 1896 was favourable. The areas sown with autumn crops was abnormally large, the people being anxious to obtain an early food supply. But the anticipations of a good autumn harvest to which they were anxiously looking forward were once again doomed to disappointment. In Bilaspur and Raipur the outturn averaged 4 annas. In Mandla *kodon* yielded 1 to 4 annas, rice from 4 to 6 annas, while *kutki* was a complete failure. *Kodon* and *kutki* cover about five-eighths of the total *kharif* area, and constitute the chief food of more than two-thirds of the population of this district. In Seoni, even irrigated rice yielded only 4 annas, while on the unirrigated area the outturn was practically *nil*. The *kodon* also failed and *juar* only gave a fair crop on the richer black soils. In the Hoshangabad district, except *juar* which yielded 8 annas, the *kharif* was a failure. Almost the same was the case with Narsinghpur. In Bhandara, the high-lying rice was a total failure, while on the better situated soils the outturn was from 5 to 6 annas. The outturn of the irrigated land was, however, good. In Balaghat, too, rice, which occupies two-thirds of the cropped area, gave over the whole district an average of not more than 3 annas. There were several successive bad years in this district, and the bulk of the population being very poor and without reserve of any kind, the failure of the principal crop of the district made the situation one of extreme gravity. In the three districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor and Damoh, the *kharif* was very scanty, the outturn not being more than 3 to 6 annas. While thus the autumn crops suffered severely, continual want of moisture on the soil, coupled with the exhaustion of the resources of the people and their consequent inability to procure seed, made it impossible that the severe loss already sustained could be mitigated or the pressure relieved by a full winter harvest. As a matter of fact the *rabi* sowings were greatly curtailed, and even if the outturn had been a full average, it could not have materially altered the general situation. For a vast majority of the people of the Province are entirely dependent on the autumn crops, rice, *juar*, *kodon* and *kutki*, and these as shown above, grievously failed. From a little over eight millions of acres in 1893-94, the cropped area under *rabi* shrank in 1896-97 to little less than four millions of acres; and the harvest, though fairly good in most districts, was too small to afford any appreciable relief. The outturn averaged from 4 to 12 annas.

8. In the above paragraph the harvest results since 1894-95 have been dealt with. But unpropitious seasons had trod on each others heels even before then; and as the power of

The average produce during past five years.

the people to resist failure of crops in any particular year is very much reduced when the failure extends over several successive seasons, no adequate idea of the present condition of the country can be formed unless we go back even still further than 1894-95. The following

table shows the percentage of outturn on full average outturn of all crops taken together since 1892-93 :—

DISTRICTS.		1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
JUBBALPUR DIVISION.	Saugor	70	31	39	42
	Damoh	55	45	41	34
	Jubbulpore	69	55	42	39
	Mandla	67	71	76	44
	Seoni	51	71	63	54
NERBUDDA DIVISION.	Narsinghpur	72	66	42	61
	Hoshangabad	75	56	42	54
	Nimar	65	77	73	73
	Betul	62	68	71	47
	Chhindwara	64	89	77	66
NAGPUR DIVISION.	Wardha	70	54	51	74
	Nagpur	74	69	45	71
	Chanda	51	44	53	64
	Bhandara	59	53	48	44
	Balaghat	65	50	55	52
CHHATTIS-GARH DIVISION.	Raipur	78	84	67	44
	Bilaspur . . . . .	...	...	...	39
	Sambalpur . . . . .	...	...	...	70
WHOLE PROVINCE .		70	65	61	57

Nothing could indicate more clearly than the above statement how severe have been the losses since 1892-93. The year 1891-92 was the last that gave anything like a fair average outturn. Since then there has been a steady decline: 1892-93 was bad enough, but 1893-94 was even worse, and there was a further falling off in 1894-95. The diminished outturn of the three previous years diminished still further in the fourth, when the average for the whole province stood at 57 per cent. of a full outturn. In eight districts it was under 50, in three under 55, in another three under 70, and in the remaining four only it went beyond 70, the highest figure reached being 74. The average for the food-grains alone was even lower. At every sowing season hopes were entertained that the next harvest would enable the people to recoup the losses of the past bad seasons. Buoyed up by this hope, which unfortunately was not to be realized, they utilised everything of value that they had in procuring seed for sowing their fields. In this manner the agricultural season of 1896-97 found them with their resources shattered and their credit almost

gone. The grievous failure of the monsoon of 1896, leading to the almost total wreck of the *kharif*, had thus the effect of landing the province in its present most lamentable condition, when, despite the gigantic efforts of the Government to save life and the all-embracing net-work of relief works and institutions, the death-rates in some districts have at times reached the high figures of 114 (Jubbulpore), 131 (Raipur), 133 (Balaghat), 139 (Saugor), 141 (Betul), 147 (Seoni), 154 (Bilaspore), and 199 (Mandla). How severe was the loss to the *kharif* in 1896 would appear from the following statement which gives the average anna out-turn :—

DISTRICT.		Anna outturn.	DISTRICT.		Anna outturn.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.	Saugor	5 to 6 annas.	NAGPUR DIVISION.	Wardha	8 annas.
	Damoh	6 „		Nagpur	8 „
	Jubbulpore . . .	5 „		Chanda	8 „
	Mandla	3 „		Bhandara . . .	6 to 7 „
	Seoni	4 „		Balaghat . . .	3 „
NARSINGPUR DIVISION.	Narsinghpur . . .	6 „	CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.	Raipur	4 „
	Hoshangabad . .	5 to 6 „		Bilaspur	5 „
	Nimar	7 to 8 „		Sambalpur . . .	10 „
	Betul	4 „			
	Chhindwara . . .	5 „			

The average for the province is 5 to 6 annas, or excluding Sambalpur, where there was no distress, even less than a third of a full outturn. Some idea of the extent of the impoverishment which this caused might be formed from the fact that in spite of the excellent *kharif* crops of the current year, the Government has found it necessary not merely to continue, but largely to extend gratuitous relief especially on the village-system, so much so that even at the end of October, when a considerable portion of the harvest had already become available for food, we find 367,000 people in receipt of gratuitous relief, which is six times the number at the beginning of the year.

9. As illustrating the progress of the distress and its severity, the numbers in receipt of State relief since the beginning of the year are given below :—

MONTHS.	Population of affected area.	NUMBER IN RECEIPT OF RELIEF.			Percentage of people on receipt of relief to population of affected area.
		On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.	TOTAL.	
January	6,037,000	249,204	56,646	305,850	5.06
February	6,035,000	233,678	93,249	326,927	5.4
March	6,035,000	348,398	130,875	479,273	7.9
April	6,168,000	381,045	153,375	534,420	8.6
May	6,168,000	495,586	207,413	702,999	11.4
June	6,462,000	263,209	184,792	448,001	6.9
July	6,462,000	351,258	267,187	618,445	9.5
August	6,462,000	260,557	320,271	580,828	8.9
September	6,462,000	249,756	377,996	627,752	9.7
October	6,462,000	145,912	367,473	513,385	7.9

Besides the above, a considerable number were employed on railway and other private works specially started to give relief to those suffering from the famine.

10.* The general mortality also goes to show how acute has been the distress in these provinces. Among people depending for their livelihood almost wholly on the produce of their lands, the effects of a bad season speedily makes itself felt in the death-rates. The ratio of deaths per 1,000 of the population was 27·70 in 1893. During the ten years ending with 1893, the highest rate was reached in 1889, when it was 43·79, the average during this period being 32·72. In 1894 the rate was 37·22, in 1895 it was 36·75, and in 1896, 47·99. But when we come to the year 1897, we find the rate going up by leaps and bounds, showing how a long course of suffering and general pressure due to a prolonged series of bad crops so undermined the constitution of the people as to defy all the efforts of Government to save them and to make them an easy prey to all those diseases that dog the footsteps of every great famine. The following statement shows the monthly death-rates per *mille* per annum :—

DISTRICT.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Septem-ber.	October.
Jubbulpore . . .	114·0	84·0	64·8	...	75·72	68·52	52·56	65·63	69·70
Saugor . . .	59·0	50·4	67·2	...	89·6	124·44	99·12	139·46	134·99
Damoh . . .	52·0	41·0	58·8	...	75·72	76·68	54·84	87·12	81·33
Mandla . . .	55·0	79·0	50·4	...	86·04	126·12	197·28	199·89	139·14
Seoni . . .	52·0	53·0	50·4	51·0	55·44	82·92	59·36	147·42	103·63
Bhandara . . .	41·70	34·8	33·6	33·84	53·64	84·24	65·76	77·08	106·79
Balaghat . . .	57·36	66·4	48·0	72·60	68·72	141·12	105·72	133·17	118·90
Nagpur . . .	21·98	...	32·4	...	54·48	57·96	47·16	68·13	82·02
Wardha . . .	...	...	31·2	40·32	50·64	67·08	48·0	74·90	107·50
Chanda . . .	26·76	10·8	...	34·56	30·60	34·56	39·60	50·02	69·57
Hoshangabad . . .	33·2	33·7	34·8	93·1	93·12	73·80	51·96	84·40	92·81
Narsinghpur . . .	78·0	48·0	97·2	88·8	88·92	77·76	75·12	86·90	94·33
Chhindwara . . .	25·8	30·0	26·4	27·6	33·96	48·96	53·52	61·19	94·35
Betul . . .	42·0	57·6	51·6	43·2	43·56	75·60	89·40	141·13	146·44
Nimar . . .	34·92	39·6	...	56·4	64·68	83·52	67·20	98·56	98·61
Raipur . . .	24·16	34·8	49·2	91·08	90·0	108·60	85·92	130·98	117·90
Bilaspur . . .	33·45	62·4	80·4	...	81·48	130·8	119·04	154·05	145·11
Sambalpur . . .	...	...	33·6	...	43·32	35·4	27·60	27·73	33·72
MEAN OF PROVINCE .	48·83	48·37	50·62	57·50	65·54	83·19	76·62	101·54	103·42

The average for the province in July is 83·19, whereas the mean of the corresponding month of the previous five years is 33·43; for August the figures are 76·62 and 37·19, for September they are 101·54 and 43·84, and for October 103·42 and 45·09, respectively. That the heavy mortality as disclosed by the above figures was due to loss of vitality caused by want of food or by living on inferior and unwholesome articles of diet would seem to be established by the fact that whereas in Raipur and Bilaspur the death-rates were very high, in the neighbouring district of Sambalpur, where the crops did not fail, it never went beyond the normal. Similarly, the death-rates were highest in those districts which were most severely stricken.

* This paragraph is based on the Sanitary Commissioner's Reports and his statements as published in the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

11. From whatever point of view then the matter be looked at and whatever tests be applied, the famine in the Central Provinces seems unquestionably the severest in the whole Empire. There was thus a very wide field for distribution of charitable relief in these parts.

12. On the publication of the report of the meeting held at Calcutta on the 14th of January, last, for the organization of a Central Committee for dealing with charitable contributions for relief of distress caused by the famine, steps were taken to form a Provincial Committee for the Central Provinces. On the arrival of the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Lyall, at Nagpur in the second week of February, an invitation was sent to him by the leading non-official citizens of the place, requesting him to preside over a public meeting which was proposed to be convened for the formation of the Central Provinces Branch of the General Committee. The meeting was held on the 13th of February in the MacDonnell Town Hall, Nagpur. Sir Charles Lyall in opening the proceedings explained the general situation in the following words:—

“Our meeting is called together to consider the arrangements necessary in this province for giving effect to the system of relief by private charity which was inaugurated, just a month ago, by the meeting at which His Excellency the Viceroy presided in Calcutta.

I wish that it had been possible to hold this meeting earlier; but as you know, I was myself away, beyond the reach of railways, on a tour of inspection of the districts affected by distress, till the end of last week, and the Commissioner has told me that it was not thought desirable to hold the meeting till I returned.

I need not, I think, go into any great detail in laying before you an account of the situation in these provinces. The figures which have been published in the Gazette from week to week will have told you what a large proportion of the population is suffering from distress, and the papers, which were published in the same Gazette on the 9th January, will have set before you the arrangements we have made for dealing with it. Briefly, out of our 18 districts, there is only one, Sambalpur, where it may be said that no distress at all exists at present. In three others, Wardha, Chanda, and Nimar, such distress as there is, is very limited. In Chanda, a great area of over 10,000 square miles, the tract needing relief is only a small portion of the north-east corner, the Ambagarh Chauki Zamindari adjoining the Feudatory State of Nandgaon. In Wardha we began with a poor-house and a small relief work, but have had to close them for want of applicants. It is possible that later on it may be desirable to re-open some works there; but I do not anticipate that any extensive measures will be required. In Nimar, from which I have just returned, no severe pressure exists, though in the old town of Burhanpur the weavers are in some straits owing to a falling off in the demand for their produce, and the southern hills inhabited by Kurkus are suffering from the general failure of the autumn crops which has afflicted the aboriginal population everywhere throughout the forest tracts of the province. For these we have opened a relief work in the Harsud Tahsil.

Next to these four districts, the most lightly afflicted tract is the Nagpur district, where last Saturday only 1,110 persons were on relief works and 1,446 receiving gratuitous relief.

The worst tract is the Jubbulpore Division, where our latest figures show nearly 200,000 persons in receipt of relief either on works or in poor-houses or in their villages. This division, as you know, is now suffering from the fourth bad year in succession; two of the four harvest failures were caused by excessive rain, and two by excessive drought. In the most afflicted district, Jubbulpore, more than 100,000 people are on our hands. Many of them are undoubtedly immigrants from the Native States of Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand, and our poor-houses are thronged with starving wanderers from that region, who often come in when it is too late to save their lives by food nursing. Next to Jubbulpore is Saugor, where we have 42,000 on relief.

Next to Jubbulpore Division, the most severely affected tract is the Nerbudda Valley, where in Hoshangabad and Narsingpur there are 58,000 persons on works and receiving gratuitous relief. I have lately seen these districts and can personally testify to the extent of the failure both of the autumn and the spring crops and the active demand for assistance from Government which has driven nearly 45,000 people on to our relief works.

One of the most afflicted sections of our population is the aboriginal tribes of the Central Plateau, who are accustomed to depend for food on the small millets of the rainy seasons, *Kodon* and *Kutki*, which in 1896 almost entirely failed. These races are so backward, so superstitious and apathetic, and so difficult to move from their homes, that it has been almost our greatest anxiety to induce them to accept the relief which we had ready for them, and to come on to our works. I am glad to say that in Mandla, Seoni, Chhindwara, and Betul this difficulty is being overcome, and we now have many thousands of Gonds and Kurkus at works on roads and tanks, and I hope secure from all risk of death by starvation. If the *mahua* harvest this year turns out well, we may reasonably hope that this section of

the population will soon have a large provision of food, which may even be sufficient to last them till they are again able to reap the *kharif* grains on which they mainly depend.

I need not go through the districts afflicted in further detail. I will only mention that our latest figures show more than a quarter of a million of persons employed on relief works, and nearly 65,000 receiving gratuitous relief—a total of 326,613—besides 43,827 persons employed on the Saugor-Katni Railway and on private tank work in Chhindwara and Bilaspur.

In addition to these great measures of Government relief, a large number of persons are employed on private works, chiefly irrigation, tanks, and embankments, carried out from loans granted under special rules for the purposes of famine relief. These loans, which are limited to severely distressed parts of the country, are given without interest, and if the work is done according to the prescribed conditions as a relief work, a remission of part of the principal, one-fourth in some tracts and one-fifth in others, is granted to the borrower.

I do not think I need detain you with a more minute description of the measures taken by Government for the purpose of saving life. These measures during the financial year which is now drawing to a close, are estimated to cost in direct expenditure no less than 28½ lakhs of rupees, besides 5 lakhs in special famine loans for land improvement and for seed grain. We have estimated for an expenditure during the year which begins on the 1st April of 50 lakhs in relief, and 10 lakhs in famine loans, and we have asked for a large grant for ordinary loans and seed advances, which we hope to receive from the Government of India. In addition to these very large heads of expenditure, I have already sanctioned the suspension of nine lakhs of Land Revenue and the remission of a lakh and a half.

These figures may give you some idea of the cost to Government—that is, to the general public which contributes to our revenues—of meeting a famine of the dimensions of that which is now upon us. The ordinary provincial revenues of this province are about 80 lakhs of rupees, more or less. You will see that the figures I have enumerated much exceed the total of a year's revenue.

Well, these figures represent the contribution from public funds to the relief of distress, and we trust that, with the unremitting exertions of all our officers, who are now devoting their best energies to the famine campaign, the expenditure will succeed in saving life and securing the maintenance of that great agricultural industry upon which in this country everything depends. We are now met together to concert the necessary measures for organizing private charity, to supplement the vast operations undertaken by Government, and to make the best use of those contributions which are in this country so freely given in aid and alleviation of suffering and distress.

You have doubtless already seen the statement of the objects to which, in the opinion of the Government of India, private charity may most usefully be devoted. These objects are, first, the provision of special comforts for the suffering and the aged, the children, and all who are in urgent need of something more than the bare subsistence which is all the State is pledged to provide. Secondly, the relief of those poor but respectable persons who, being unable to appear in public, will not apply for the relief offered by the Government, and would rather face death by privation than make their wants publicly known; thirdly, the maintenance of orphans, many of whom must necessarily be left unprotected when famine has bereft them of their protectors, and fourthly, the restoration to their original position when acute distress is subsiding of those who have lost their all in the struggle, and giving them a fresh start in life. These objects will, I am sure, appeal to you all as eminently worthy and useful ones, to which all the aid you can give can most suitably be devoted. They are the objects which have been accepted by the Calcutta Central Committee, of which several of you are already members, as proper for the action of private charity; and they have also been adopted by the large number of charitable persons in England, whose contributions to the relief of distress in India have already reached nearly a quarter of a million sterling. The Central Committee, from the sums which have reached their hands, have already allotted to this province 45,000 rupees, and will doubtless, as contributions come in both here and in the United Kingdom, increase their allotments still further. One of the first objects which will engage the attention of the Provincial Committee will be to formulate an estimate of their requirements under each of the four heads I have mentioned; and I do not doubt that the liberality of those here who are willing to give in this pious cause will be amply seconded by contributions both from England and from other parts of this country where public generosity has come forward in aid of our distress."

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting :—

- (I) That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be applied, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and resolves that all moneys specially subscribed for or allotted to the Central Provinces be expended on these objects.

- (II) (a) That a Provincial Committee, composed of the gentlemen named below, with power to add to their number, be formed to receive the moneys referred to in the first resolution and to co-operate under the officers of Government and the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in securing the objects of the fund.
- (b) That the Provincial Committee be empowered to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the fund with power to delegate all or any of its functions to the Executive Committee.

Similar meetings presided over by the respective Commissioners of Divisions (Mr. L. K. Lawrie, Mr. F. C. Anderson, and Colonel Temple) were held at Hoshangabad for the Nerbudda Division, at Jubbulpore for the Jubbulpore Division, and at Raipur for the Chhattisgarh Division. The Provincial Committee met on the 18th of February, when an Executive Committee of the following gentlemen was constituted :—

Chairman.

MR. J. FOSTER STEVENS, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces.

Members.

MR. W. A. NEDHAM, Officiating Commissioner, Nagpur Division.
 THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP PELVAT of the Roman Catholic Church, Central Provinces.
 THE REV. J. DOUGLAS of the Free Church Mission, Nagpur.
 THE HONOURABLE GANGADHAR BAO MADHO CHITNAVIS, C.I.E., of Nagpur.
 RAO BAHADUR BHARGAO RAO GADGIL, Judge, Small Cause Court, Nagpur.
 MR. BEZONJEE DADABHOY MEHTA, Manager, Empress Mills, Nagpur.
 MR. ABDUL AZIZ, Pleader, Nagpur.
 RAI BAHADUR BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE, Government Advocate, Nagpur, Member and Honorary Secretary.
 MR. J. T. MARTEN, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, Nagpur, Honorary Joint-Secretary.

On the 20th of March Mr. Stevens resigned his office of Chairman on being appointed to officiate as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, and Mr. Stanley Ismay, I.C.S., Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces, was elected to take his place on the Executive Committee. Mr. H. J. Stanyon, C.I.E., Barrister-at-Law, formerly of the Jubbulpore Bar, and now Judicial Assistant to the Commissioners, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, was subsequently added to the Executive Committee.

13. The Executive Committee held its first meeting on the 27th of February, when after settling some preliminary details regarding the organization of its office, it was resolved to address all Deputy Commissioners in the province (excepting the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur in which there was no distress), requesting them to take early steps to form local Committees to receive moneys to be apportioned to their districts out of grants from the Central Committee, and also moneys subscribed locally to meet local wants, and to administer the same in accordance with the principles approved by the Government and accepted by the Central and the Provincial Committees. It was pointed out that the District Committees to be constituted should in the main be non-official in their character; the members, however, should be persons likely to be willing loyally to co-operate with Government officers in applying the fund to its declared objects. And to guard against any possible misuse of the fund and against the operations of the Committee interfering with or overlapping the operations of Government, it was recommended that with the non-official members should be associated some responsible officer of Government in charge of famine-works or institutions. It was further pointed out that sub-committees should be appointed to deal with local areas, which might, owing to the severity of the distress or any other cause, seem to call for special organization to meet their wants. The following statement

Formation of District Committees.

shows the date of formation of the District Committees, their constitution and the number of meetings held by them :—

District.	Date of formation of Committee.	CHAIRMAN.	SECRETARIES.	Number of official members.	Number of non-official members.	Number of meetings held.	Number of sub-committees.
Nagpur	23-3-97	Mr. F. R. K. Blenkinsop, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	{ 1) Mr. Krishna Rao Deshpande, M.A., B.L., Pleader. (2) Mr. Amrit Rao Lukhaman Dighe, M.A., B.L., Pleader. (3) Mr. Mahomed Amirkhan, Pleader.	5	23	7	4
Bhandara	16-3-97	Rao Sahab Rang Rao, Pleader	Mr. Ramkrishna Rao, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	1	13	11	3
Chanda	15-3-97	Mr. M. Hasan, Barrister-at-Law, Civil Judge.	Mr. R. R. Bobde, Pleader	2	7	21	32
Wardha	16-3-97	Mr. Kashinath Rao, M.A., Civil Judge.	{ Mr. Krishna Rao Deshmukh, Pleader Mr. A. Blennerhasset, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner.	7	13	9	14
Balaghat	16-3-97	Mr. A. Mayne, I.C.S., Settlement Officer.	Mr. M. M. Mullna, M.A., B.L., Pleader.	2	11	2	1
Raipur	6-3-97	Mr. A. D. Younghusband, I.C.S., Commissioner.	{ (1) Mr. G. D. Oswell, Principal, Rajkumar Collego. (2) Mr. H. S. Gour, Barrister-at-Law.	12	14	32	5
Bilaspur	13-3-97	Mr. F. J. Cooke, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. N. N. De, Barrister-at-Law	6	4	15	5
Jubbulpore	2-3-97	Mr. B. Robertson, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Brigade-Surgeon Dr. P. Cullen, M.D.	8	22	17	1
Sauger	6-3-97	Mr. F. A. T. Phillips, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. Kashinath Rao, Pleader	3	12	5	4
Damoh	14-3-97	Mr. E. H. Blakesley, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	{ (1) Mr. J. G. McGavran, Missionary. (2) Mr. Lakhmi Chand, Pleader	6	11	16	2
Mandla	10-3-97	Mr. W. N. Maw, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. Balaji Gangadhar, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	15	8	5	...
Seoni	9-3-97	Khan Bahadur Anlad Hussein, C.I.E., Settlement Officer.	Mr. Gouri Shanker Bhargava, Pleader	1	20	21	1
Hoshangabad	4-4-97	Mr. H. A. Crump, B.A., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	{ (1) Rai Bahadur Kalidas Chowdhay, Pleader. (2) Mr. Jadu Nath Dutta, Malguzar.	6	15	6	1
Chhindwara	23-3-97	The Reverend A. G. Danielson, Swedish Missionary.	Mr. Mathura Prasad, Pleader	4	21	14	14
Narsinghpur	16-3-97	Mr. E. A. DeBrett, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. Sadashee Rao, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	6	19	16	2
Betul	8-3-97	Mr. F. S. Tabor, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. P. D. Kirkham, District Superintendent of Police.	3	12	3	17
Nimar	22-3-97	The Reverend A. S. E. Varden, Missionary, American Methodist Mission.	Mr. Haridas Chatterji, M.A., B.L., Pleader.	10	30	5	3

It will be seen from the above that in forming the Committees, the principle that they were to be essentially extra-official in their character was duly observed, 74 per cent. of the members being non-officials. At the same time in most districts the Deputy Commissioner was elected the Chairman, while the Secretary was a non-official. Thus, while the Committees had a strong non-official element representing the intelligence and public spirit of the district, they had the advantage of the active help, control, and sympathy of the head of the District Administration. The representatives of Christian Mission bodies were also invited to join the Committees, and they gladly responded. Thus was brought into existence in every affected district a body of devoted workers, who entered into the struggle against famine with a full sense of responsibility of their difficult task and with a single-minded desire to help the sufferers, irrespective of race, caste or creed. How they have succeeded in acting as the channels through which the fertilizing stream of this noble charity was made to spread over the whole province, carrying relief to thousands of widows and orphans left destitute by the death or disappearance of their bread-winners, and to that important class of the community, peasant cultivators, who had been forced to eat their seed-grain and part with their plough-cattle to save life, will be narrated as this report proceeds.

Private Charity before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

14.* (a) Relief of distress by private charity had commenced in most of the districts long before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. It may not be out of place to preface a report of what has been done under the auspices of the Fund Committees by a short description of what was done before they were formed, the more so as the old relief Committees constituted in most places the nucleus of the new organization. Saugor was one of the first districts to feel the depressing effect of successive bad seasons, and it was here that the earliest poor-house, supported entirely by private charity, was started. In July 1894, ₹1,372 were raised locally and a poor-house opened in the town of Saugor. It was kept going till the end of November 1894, when it had to be closed for want of funds. During the five months of its existence, it gave relief on an average to 186 persons daily. The closing of the poor-house had only the effect of increasing the half-starved beggars in the town, and after some more money had been raised, it was re-opened on the 6th of February 1895. This time the private subscriptions were supplemented by grants from Municipal and District Council Funds. With a short break about the time when *rabi* is generally cut, the poor-house remained open and continued to be maintained by private charity till the end of November 1896, the average number of persons to whom it gave shelter being about 500 daily. Side by side with the poor-house, relief works likely to benefit the town were started to give occupation to such of the inmates as were able to work as also to the labouring class generally. Adding up the daily totals, the numbers employed were 54,832. These operations cost ₹15,736. From the 1st of December 1896, State relief works and institutions were opened and private charity then for the time being ceased to work. In Damoh, scarcity may be said to have made its appearance so far back as 1888-89. By 1894 the distress had become pretty general and acute. To meet it, ₹2,196 were raised by private subscriptions, and poor-houses opened at three of the principal towns in the district, Damoh, Hatta, and Patharia. The inmates were given cooked food twice a day, and clothes were also given to those who had none. These poor-houses were closed about the middle of December 1894. But the *rabi*, which had promised well at the beginning, was seriously damaged by continued cloudy weather, and the distress instead of subsiding began gradually to deepen into famine. Further subscriptions amounting to ₹2,950 were raised, and all the three poor-houses re-opened from the middle of April 1895. Funds being exhausted, they had to be closed by the end of October following. The orphans and those in a very weakened condition were, however, retained in the dispensary poor-house. Next in order of time come the operations at Jubbulpore. By 1895, the impoverishment of those in the lower ranks of society, especially the small tenants and the agricultural labourers, had reached such a stage that after having parted with whatever of value they had, they were forced to leave their villages and flock towards the large towns in quest of food. The rich bankers and other residents daily fed these starving people, collecting them before their houses or at convenient open spaces. The Municipal Committees of Jubbulpore, Sihora, and Murwara in their corporate capacity, and the members individually also raised funds and opened poor-houses, and in the city of Jubbulpore also relief works. It has not been found possible to ascertain the numbers thus relieved. But some idea of the good done may be formed from the account of money that was spent. At Jubbulpore ₹4,681, at Murwara ₹1,582, and at Sihora ₹1,141, in all ₹7,404, were raised by public subscriptions. The Jubbulpore Municipality gave ₹635 to the poor-house, and spent ₹33,802 on local works of utility intended to give occupation to the people in distress. The Murwara Municipality gave ₹500 to those engaged in feeding the starvelings. The District Council contributed ₹7,750 on similar objects. The Reverend C. H. Gill, of the Church Mission School, collected ₹6,375 and spent the money in feeding and clothing 981 persons at Jubbulpore and in supporting 234 children at an orphanage at Murwara. The Reverend T. S. Johnson, of the Methodist Episcopal Mission,

* This paragraph is based on information kindly furnished by the Honorary Secretaries, District Committees.

raised Rs2,000 and fed and clothed some 200 children. The Reverend J. Parson, of the Wesleyan Mission, spent Rs6,600 on an orphanage and a poor-house started by him at Jubbulpore. He taught some of the children and adults weaving and other crafts, and realized as much as Rs1,030 by sale of articles manufactured by them. But all this only partially represents what private charity did to mitigate the miseries of the people, as many individuals preferred to distribute their own charity rather than contribute to a public fund. The "Theosophical Society" maintained an orphanage, and the Mahomedan "Anjuman" fed and clothed numerous abandoned children and destitute adults. The ladies of the Church of England Zenana Mission were also active in relieving women and children at various towns in the interior of the district. On the whole it may be safely stated that over Rs70,000 must have been spent in charitable relief in this district before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

In the District of Seoni, after a succession of indifferent harvests, the distress became general towards the close of the monsoon of 1895, when, owing to the cessation of the rains, the cultivators had to give up all hope of saving the rice and *kodon* crops then on the ground. People whom the loss of these crops had deprived of their only means of livelihood, then began to leave their villages where they could no longer find anything to live upon and aimlessly to move about the district. By and by they began to pour into the town of Seoni in the hope of finding relief. To help them a Committee of the leading citizens was formed, and with the subscriptions raised raw rice at the rate of one-fourth seer per head began to be distributed. When, with the successive loss of the *rabi* of 1895 and the *kharif* of 1896, the distress deepened, the operations of the Committee were extended, and by October 1896, a poor-house was opened where about 240 people were daily fed. The subscriptions came to Rs3,157; a portion of this, which had remained unspent, was afterwards incorporated in the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

The last year in which the crops in the District of Hoshangabad were really good was 1891. After this the outturn never came up to the normal average. Systematic distribution of private charitable relief to the distressed began in this district in July 1895, when a poor-house was opened at Hoshangabad for housing and feeding the famished people who were then crowding into the town and becoming a danger to the public health. Many of them belonged to the Bhopal State, which at this point is separated from the British territories only by the river Nerbudda. In expectation of a good *kharif* harvest, the poor-house was closed about the middle of September. With the failure, more or less complete, of the *kharif* and the heavy rise in prices induced by large exports to the North-Western Provinces, the influx of paupers recommenced, and this time many cultivators and petty shop-keepers could be counted among them. To feed these people the poor-house was re-opened in August 1896. It continued to be maintained by private charity till November, when it was taken over by Government. To give relief to those who would not sacrifice their self-respect by going to the poor-house, a special subscription of Rs2,500 was raised, and with this, supplemented by a municipal grant of Rs3,000, a piece of low ground was reclaimed and a market established on its site. In other parts of the district also private charity was at work. At Sohagpur Rs1,031, at Harda Rs766, and at Seoni Rs1,995 were raised and spent in feeding the famished. Many private gentlemen also fed large numbers of paupers at their houses and gave them clothes. One of them distributed 200 pieces of blankets to the inmates of the poor-house. But the most noteworthy charity of all was the charity of the "Friends Foreign Mission" who spent no less a sum than Rs49,328 in giving relief to the people in the interior of the district. To broken-down agriculturists they gave Rs16,320.

In the district of Narsinghpur, owing to the failure of the *rabi* crops of 1895-96, the labouring classes, who depended on their earnings at harvest, and such of the agriculturists as had no reserve of their own to fall back upon, found themselves in great difficulty, and distress among them soon became general throughout the district. By living on food they were not used to, many of them became too weak to take advantage of some local road-works that were started to give them relief; and these began to migrate to Narsinghpur and

other towns and beg for food and shelter from the residents. Individual charity was not backward in responding to these appeals for aid. But some organized system of relief soon became necessary to cope with the increasing distress; and arrangements were made to open poor-houses at Narsinghpur, Gadarpura, and Ohhindwara, where all who applied for relief were housed, fed and clothed. Several malguzars also distributed charity to their suffering villagers at their houses. So far as accounts have been kept, Rs. 3,844 were spent in giving relief to 35,914 people. In the remaining eleven districts included in the affected area, private charity on anything like an organized scale did not come forward to relieve distress until October-November 1896, by which time it had become abundantly clear everywhere that the year was bound to be one of great and general suffering. An account of the poor-house at Nagpur has already found place in the first report of the Central Committee (pages 48—51). From 1st November 1896 to 1st April 1897, when the poor-house was taken over by Government, it cost in the construction of sheds, purchase of food-grains, of clothes for distribution to the inmates and in meeting other incidental charges, Rs. 10,511. The number relieved daily averaged 673 souls. In the district of Balaghat, private charity organized a small local relief work at Balaghat, and also opened poor-houses at Balaghat, Katangi, and Behir. Some dealers in grain and land-holders also fed the starving people at half a dozen centres in the district. Though starving, the people would not at the beginning take advantage of the relief given at the poor-houses for fear of losing their caste from association with members of inferior castes. They were accordingly given raw rations and allowed to prepare their own food. A fund was started by the Revd. J. Lamford, a missionary gentleman working in one of the taluqs in the district, with which he supported several hundred starving people. A subscription list opened in England among her friends by Mrs. Mayne, wife of the President of the District Committee, brought in Rs. 2,400, which was mainly utilized in helping broken-down agriculturists. At Bhandara about Rs. 4,000 were raised and spent in supporting four poor-houses. Altogether Rs. 3,960 were spent and relief was given to 1,460 persons daily for about four months. Following the example set by Government, many zamindars and malguzars also opened their forests to their destitute villagers, and allowed them to take the *mahua* crop free of charge. A description of the orphanage established at Bhandara has already appeared in the first report of the Central Committee (pages 64—65). At Raipur about Rs. 1,600 were spent on a poor-house and about Rs. 250 in giving clothes to people employed on relief works opened by the local municipality. At the military station of Kamptee (near Nagpur) about Rs. 5,000 were raised and spent in housing, feeding and clothing the famished people. In Betul, besides giving relief through a poor-house at Badnur, private charity was organized to give gratuitous relief in villages and to respectable persons and *parda* women in distress in some of the principal towns. Accounts have been kept for Rs. 1,507 as spent on these objects. In the district of Mandla two poor-houses were maintained at a cost of about Rs. 2,100, and Rs. 3,500 were raised to supplement Government relief in the shape of gifts of clothes and blankets to the relief workers. Out of the latter amount Rs. 1,249 were spent up to the date of the formation of the District Committee, the balance being transferred to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. It is generally the custom in the Balaghat and Bhandara Districts for the labouring classes to go to the Berars during the harvest time for employment as field labourers. In 1896, owing to local failure of crops, this migration began prematurely and on a large scale towards the end of September. As already described, the poor-house at Nagpur was mainly opened to give shelter to these destitute people. The same was the case at Wardha. Here too a poor-house was opened for them, especially as the Berars authorities took steps to discourage their influx into their own territories. About Rs. 600 were spent in the maintenance of the Wardha poor-house till the middle of January 1897, when it was closed, all the inmates having by that time been sent back to Nagpur, Bhandara, and Balaghat to be taken care of there. There was also considerable local distress in some parts of this district, and at all such places the leading citizens combined together to give doles of grain to those in distress. Many *malguzars* also permitted their destitute tenants and other villagers to avail themselves

of the *mahua* crop in their *malguzari* forests free of charge. This proved a great boon to the people at a critical time.

14. (b) No account of what the people did to help their distressed neighbours would be complete without a few words about the conduct of the *malguzars* towards their tenants under the trial of adversity of the past few years. Although village communities, with the *malguzar* or *patel* as the keystone of the system, have undergone many changes during recent years, and although the old bonds, which held the villagers together, have of late lost much of their vitality, yet the tenants still look to their *malguzars* for help and protection, and when any common danger threatens the village, he is expected to pull the villagers through the crisis. The following extracts from paragraph 16 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Revenue Administration for 1895-96 would show what help the tenants received at the hands of their *malguzars*. The Commissioner of Jubbulpore writes: "There can be no doubt that many well-to-do *malguzars* have expended large sums in supporting their tenantry and keeping their villagers together." The Deputy Commissioner of Narsinghpur writes: "I have been much struck with the readiness with which *malguzars* have assisted their tenants and labourers during the period of distress." The Deputy Commissioner of Betul says—" *Malguzars* seem, as a rule, to take a high-minded view of their duties to their tenants and to advance them both seed-grain and food freely, not taking bonds or mortgage-deeds unless the tenant is already heavily involved." The Commissioner of Chhattisgarh states—"The relations between landlords and tenants in the Bilaspur District are reported to be generally satisfactory, and *malguzars* have in many instances helped their tenantry with seed-grain and money to carry on cultivation despite the fact of their rents being in arrears at the same time." The Commissioner of Nagpur writes: "The relations between landlords and tenants are as a rule amicable. They realise that the one cannot do without the other. When times are hard, it is not likely the *malguzar*, speaking generally, will be inconsiderate."

15. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Central Executive Committee for the prompt, opportune, and generous response to our appeals for aid on behalf of the sorely-stricken people of these provinces. Severe, long-continued, and wide-spread as has been the famine amongst us, the munificent grants made to us from time to time from the General Fund have enabled our local Committees so to organize and shape their plan of operations as supplementary to the measures of Government as to be able to mitigate the sufferings of the people in all their diverse phases. Pending the formation of our Provincial Branch, the Central Committee had made remittances aggregating Rs2,45,000 to the Local Government, and this amount was handed over to our Committee as soon as it was formed. To save time, provisional allotments aggregating Rs1,000 were made to the Deputy Commissioners of the seventeen affected districts at the very first meeting of the Executive Committee, with instructions to hand over the money to the District Committees as soon as they would be constituted, in order that distribution of relief under the first three objects of the fund might begin without any loss of time. Further grants bringing up the total to Rs7,81,250. were received up to the 8th of April, and on the following day our Committee met and placed Rs7,80,000 out of this at the disposal of the District Committees. This eased the situation very considerably, the need of relief under the first three objects having in the interval grown very urgent. As the time approached for distribution of seed-grain and plough-cattle to the broken-down agriculturists, our local Committees began to make eager enquiries as to the amount likely to be available for expenditure under this most important head of relief. The liberal and opportune grant of Rs14,00,000 in May at once allayed all their anxieties and enabled them to give immediate effect to the plans of relief, which were being matured with the utmost care since weeks past. In July a special grant of Rs25,000 for the distressed Feudatory States in the Chhattisgarh was given. A further most welcome grant of Rs8,00,000 was sent in this month for the province generally; and with the substantial aid thus received, arrangements

were at once set on foot for distribution of advances for the *rabi* seed, the allotment in May having been exhausted in meeting the requirements for the *kharif* sowings. A further grant of Rs60,000 in September was appropriated to the same object. About the middle of October, a telegram was received from the Vice-Chairman intimating that, if wanted, another grant of Rs2,00,000 could be made for the Central Provinces. The offer was most thankfully accepted, as everywhere the estimates for the winter seed advances were found to be much in excess of the funds in hand. Blankets and clothes during the approaching winter for the protection of those who had been kept alive all through the summer and the rains by the Government system of relief, were also urgently needed all over the province. As this grant was not to be available for some days, but as in the meantime the advances for the *rabi* seeds to be of use had to be made almost immediately, an application was made to the Chief Commissioner for a temporary loan from the Government Treasury of Rs1,50,000, this being the sum allotted for the above object out of the expected grant. The loan was most kindly given and the money was at once placed in the hands of the District Committees. This completes the grants received up to the end of October, the total being Rs32,66,250. Two items of special subscriptions for these provinces amounting to Rs788-8, as also Rs76-10 being a moiety of Rs153-4 sent by Mrs. Hauser for supplying *saris* or blankets to women in distress, were also received from the Central Committee during the period covered by this report.

16. In the following table are shown the allotments made to the District Committees and their incidence per head of population :—

District.	Population.	Grant.	Incidence.	
		<i>R</i>	<i>As.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Nagpur	757,862	90,350	1	10
Bhandara	742,850	1,63,260	3	6
Chanda	697,610	23,500	0	7½
Wardha	800,854	24,000	0	5½
		3,11,540	} 13	10
Balaghat	383,331	20,000*		
		3,31,540		
Raipur	1,584,427	3,08,200	3	1
Bilaspur	1,164,158	2,99,070	4	1
Jubbulpore	748,146	4,27,703	9	1
Saugor	591,743	2,97,150	8	0
Damoh	325,613	2,61,000	12	9
Mandla	339,373	2,04,350	9	7
Seoni	370,767	1,29,130	5	7
Hoshangabad	529,945	2,58,850	7	9
Chhindwara	407,494	84,775	3	4
Narsinghpur	367,026	2,10,000	9	1
Betul	323,196	61,250	3	0
Nimar	253,486	51,400	3	3
Chhattisgarh Feudatories . . . . .	...	35,000	...	.
TOTAL . . . . .	...	32,65,525		

* This grant, though sanctioned in October, was, at the request of the President, Balaghat Committee, held back and sent to Jubbulpore early in November to cover the cost of *rabi* seed purchased.

The average for the Province, exclusive of the Feudatories, is five annas nine pies. The divisional averages are, for Nagpur four annas one pie, Chhattisgarh three annas seven pies, Jubbulpore nine annas, and Nerbudda five annas three and a half pies. The reports sent by the District Committees regarding their requirements were prepared with the utmost care, and they were considered and collated with an anxious desire to make as fair and equitable a distribution of the funds as was possible under the circumstances.

But, considering the depth of the distress, the task proved one of no small difficulty. It is believed, however, that on the whole the distribution has given general satisfaction. Two of the Committees, Jubbulpore and Raipur, have placed on record their sense of appreciation of the judicious manner in which the needs of their districts were attended to. Balaghat is the only district whose demands could not be met in the proportion in which the estimates from the other districts were met. But the Balaghat estimate, though perhaps justified by the condition of the people there, was pitched comparatively high, and it would not have been possible to meet it in full without starving the other districts. As it is, judged by the population list, Balaghat has received the highest grant. Next, after it, comes Damoh, and, after Damoh, Mandla, Jubbulpore, and Narsinghpur. Wardha and Chanda are the least affected districts, and they have received the smallest grants. Judged by the number in receipt of relief, Bilaspur was not at the beginning so severely affected as some of the districts in the Jubbulpore Division, but during the rains the distress there suddenly came to a head and assumed a very acute form, and accordingly, in the distributions made in September and October, Bilaspur was given the foremost place.

17. The total receipts have been R33,51,919-6-1, the details being

Receipts.		as follows :—		
		R	a.	p.
Received from the Central Committee	.. .	32,67,115	2	0
Subscriptions realized in the Province	.. .	75,894	15	7
Miscellaneous	.. .	8,900	4	6
TOTAL		33,51,919	6	1

Compared with what has been raised in other parts of India, the amount of local subscription will appear small. But the Central Provinces are comparatively poor in resources, and the people here have lost much and suffered much in the past years from successive bad seasons. Moreover, since the first appearance of distress, they have been doing their best to help their needy neighbours, and had already spent much in this direction when the present organization came into existence. In paragraph 14 an attempt has been made to gather together such information as is now available regarding measures taken by private charity before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, but, owing to the circumstance that no organization then existed to keep an accurate account of everything that was done, it has not been found possible to make this part of the report an exhaustive one. Eight thousand, nine hundred and nine rupees have been credited under the head "Miscellaneous". A portion of this is nominal income, made up of refunds by relieving officers out of advances made to them, sale-proceeds of grain originally purchased for distribution, but afterwards sold, and a temporary loan taken by one Committee (Chanda). The rest is real income, being price of articles manufactured by persons in receipt of relief and of clothes received from England. Some of these latter had to be sold, as they were found unsuitable for distribution. The total sum realized under this last head is R670-10-9.

18. The total expenditure has been R29,25,569-15-8, the details being

Expenditure.		as follows :—		
		R	a.	p.
Under Object	I	1,05,615	14	11
"	II	31,389	5	9
"	III	1,22,165	7	1
"	IV	26,52,492	12	7
Miscellaneous—				
Office Establishment		5,731	9	3
Postage, telegrams, printing,		8,174	14	1
Railway freight and other charges				
TOTAL		13,906	7	4
GRAND TOTAL		29,25,569	15	8

In most places Government orphanages were attached to the poor-houses, and grants made to all such institutions for extra comforts were spent

without any attempt at separate classification as between orphans and other inmates. It has not therefore been found possible to distribute the expenditure under Objects I and II separately. But the amounts spent in making grants-in-aid to private orphanages have been separately shown, and their total comes to Rs30,264-5-9. Under the head Miscellaneous is included office expenditure. This, for the whole Province, comes to Rs5,731. It was possible to keep down office-expenditure to a minimum, as much of the office work, including its most important parts, was done by gentlemen who gave their valuable services gratuitously. The proportion which the office expenditure bears to the total expenditure is 19 per cent., or about two-fifths of a pie in the rupee.

19. The following statement shows the district expenditure distributed under the prescribed heads :—

DISTRICT.	COLUMN 1.						COLUMN 2.			COLUMN 3.			COLUMN 4.			Percentage of expenditure on relief to total.
	Objects I and II.						Object III.			Object IV.			Total of columns 1, 2, and 3.			
	Incurred jointly.			Separately for orphans.												
	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	
Nagpur	4,304	6	3	Nil			20,934	12	8	62,902	8	0	88,141	10	11	99.4
Bhandara	3,705	0	5	1,238	6	5	19,427	13	4	1,00,881	0	0	1,25,252	4	2	99.6
Chanda	2,739	12	8	Nil			1,458	12	1	35,423	9	7	39,612	2	4	99.5
Wardha	433	7	0	Nil			5,979	1	0	24,318	0	0	30,730	8	0	99.6
Balaghat	1,413	2	1	Nil			1,005	12	0	3,25,489	11	0	3,27,908	9	1	98.4
Raipur	4,479	12	2	20,301	14	2	10,237	10	7	2,66,819	8	1	3,01,838	13	0	99.5
Bilaspur	13,199	0	9	650	0	0	1,750	0	0	2,74,468	14	0	2,90,067	14	9	99.9
Jubbulpore	13,901	2	3	5,252	0	0	29,337	0	6	3,67,692	7	0	4,22,205	3	9	99.7
Saugor	7,638	11	3	Nil			1,777	10	0	2,29,520	0	0	2,38,836	5	3	99.7
Damoh	5,938	2	0	Nil			350	0	0	2,49,516	0	0	2,55,804	2	0	99.8
Maudla	7,409	11	7	Nil			7,743	8	3	1,49,408	7	6	1,64,561	11	4	99.8
Seoni	6,123	6	10	Nil			1,866	0	6	1,10,907	2	7	1,18,896	9	11	99.7
Hoshangabad	7,035	7	10	Nil			8,014	15	5	87,015	5	6	1,02,125	12	9	99.4
Chhindwara	12,825	9	10	Nil			3,589	0	0	64,788	12	0	81,203	5	10	99.1
Narsinghpur	912	3	6	1,782	0	0	3,318	8	3	1,90,722	12	0	1,96,735	7	9	99.5
Betul	2,986	12	0	Nil			1,855	5	6	51,782	4	9	56,624	6	3	99.3
Nimar	1,328	8	6	150	0	0	1,997	1	0	37,703	14	4	41,179	7	10	99.3
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	2,791	7	3	890	1	2	370	8	0	23,102	8	3	27,154	8	8	...
TOTAL	1,05,058	12	2	30,264	5	9	1,21,063	7	1	26,52,492	12	7	29,08,879	5	7	...

20. The following statement shows the number of persons relieved :—

DISTRICT.	OBJECTS I AND II.			OBJECT III.			OBJECT IV.	
	Clothes and blankets to	Extra comforts to	Orphans supported.	Clothes to	Doles cash or grain to	Relieved through cheap grain shop	Agriculturists.	Others.
Nagpur	4,752	254	...	...	567	5,911	2,975	200
Bhandara	6,911	236	97	554	10,399	...	9,793	200
Chanda . . . . .	...	20	...	...	...	1,332	6,476	...
Wardha	867	674	...	366	1,571	...	2,748	...
Balaghat	7,107	...	...	1,269	7	1,053	68,265	...
Raipur	23,521	11,242	320	...	4,226	2,000	46,842	3,342
Bilaspur	8,435	...	30	...	251	...	21,316	...
Jubbulpore	26,630	95,160	2,626	...	12,476	10,629	35,210	...
Saugor	10,522	4,121	...	467	...	...	16,546	...
Damoh	7,557	...	...	236	2	...	18,398	...
Maudla	6,856	2,539	...	1,281	128	1,079	14,931	303
Seoni	3,308	...	...	113	118	1,689	19,249	...
Hoshangabad	8,093	...	...	265	538	...	7,992	...
Chhindwara	10,665	99	...	101	2,425	...	7,038	...
Narsinghpur	1,745	891	891	167	1,781	...	15,733	...
Betul	1,277	...	...	...	128	...	6,261	...
Nimar	440	548	27	...	229	...	4,168	...
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	3,332	...	...	...	173	...	20,484	...
Through the Executive Committee	415	...	269	485	370	...	...	...
TOTAL	137,433	115,784	4,260	5,304	35,389	23,693	324,424	4,045

21. The distribution of relief naturally divided itself into two parts—(1) relief under the first three objects, which demanded and received immediate attention, and has been continuous throughout; (2) relief to impoverished agriculturists, which was given between the middle of May and middle of June for the *kharij*, and a second time in the last fortnight of October (extended to the second week of November in some places) for the *rabi*.

22. The most noticeable feature of the relief given under the first object was the gift of clothes and blankets to the inmates of poor-houses, to the relief-workers, and also to those who were reached through the village relief system. There was ample scope for these gifts, as a great many of the three to seven hundred thousand persons who were in receipt of State aid did not come to take their place upon the relief works or enter the poor-houses until they had been reduced to the last stage of destitution. They came with only some dirty rags to cover their nakedness, and no more humane and useful form of relief could have been conceived than of giving clothes to these unfortunate people. Most of them were from the ranks of agricultural labourers, and others accustomed at ordinary times to earn their living by honest labour. A good many were old and infirm or otherwise physically afflicted. This was again a form of relief which proved very popular, and never failed to evoke the liveliest gratitude. Mr. Showell, a Government relief officer in the Raipur District, thus writes on the subject:—“The next business was distributing cloth to the wretched poor, and this, though a very sad sight in consequence of the absolute wretchedness displayed, was more gratifying than any of the other work by the almost too overwhelming gratitude shown. The recipients were principally people on relief under section 34, Famine Code, that is, people who were absolutely without means and often blind, lame or otherwise afflicted, and for whom no one cared. For these people to be suddenly presented with a new piece of cloth, which many of them certainly had not had for months, was quite an unexpected piece of good fortune, which they could not account for at first. But after the first minute or so, when they realized matters, there was no doubt about their gratitude, and it almost upset me in a physical sense, as they all wanted to put their hands under my feet.” Another form of relief under this head was the giving of an extra meal, in addition to what is provided for in the Famine Code, and also in giving vegetables cooked in *ghee* (clarified butter) to the inmates of poor-houses. Medical comforts and extras which the medical officers in charge thought went beyond what the Code allowed, but which at the same time were considered desirable for promoting health and strength, were also given in consultation with these officers. The agencies employed were generally the officers in charge of relief works and Superintendents of poor-houses. In many places also the cloth was distributed by Sub-Committees specially appointed for the purpose. The selection was made on the spot either by some responsible officer of Government, or some members of the Committee. This part of the work presented no difficulty, for there was no lack of deserving objects of this charity. The difficulty lay in another direction. The funds being limited, out of thousands congregated at the relief camps, only some could be satisfied, and whom to give and whom to refuse was a question not easily solved. But, though this was so, there was no attempt to create confusion or force the hands of the relieving officers. Their decision was generally submitted to with a resignation which went to accentuate, if possible, the feeling of pity which the miserable condition of these people could not fail to evoke.

23. The second object of the fund is stated to be “providing for the maintenance of orphans.” At the outset some difficulty was experienced in deciding where the functions of Government ended and those of the Committee began. The statement quoted above is general enough to justify the application of the fund to the support of all orphans, including those in Government orphanages, and this was what was done after beginning in some places. It was, however, thought that the statement had to be construed consistently with the principle which underlay the organization of the Fund. That principle, as authoritatively declared by Government and accepted by the

Distribution of relief.

Relief under Object I.

Object II—Orphans.

Central Committee, was that private charity might not supersede, but only supplement State relief. Government had made itself responsible for the saving of life, and this included the case of orphans left destitute by the death or disappearance of their natural guardians. All such orphans had therefore to be maintained from the State fund so long as the famine lasted. The Vice-Chairman's circular letter No. 837, dated the 14th of May 1897, on the interpretation of the objects of the Fund, cleared up matters, and thereafter no portion of our money was applied towards the maintenance of orphans. But, as in the case of others, so in the case of orphans, there was a wide field for the utilization of our money beyond the bare preservation of life, and accordingly it was spent in giving clothing, extra diet, and medical comforts to the orphans, and in two or three places in training them in some useful crafts. Besides the orphans maintained by Government, there were a good many of them who had come into the hands of private persons and were being brought up by them. The question arose whether we would be called upon to contribute towards their support. On the one hand, it was said that the State as the universal guardian of all orphans had a right to their custody, and no private individual could, if Government so desired, refuse to make over to its officers any orphan who might have come into his hands. Our Committees, if called upon to support any such orphans, could well ask the person in charge to hand him over to Government, and, on his refusing to do so, decline to give him aid. On the other hand, it was thought that it was neither expedient nor, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, just and proper, that persons who from pure motives of benevolence had taken upon themselves the onerous responsibility of saving the lives of these poor children should be denied aid from the Charity Fund. Our Committee accordingly pointed out to the local Committees that private orphanages were not to be excluded from the scope of our organization, but that reasonable aid might, at their discretion, be given to all such institutions, provided they were well conducted and under due supervision. It was further pointed out that the fund recognized no religious disability, and it would not therefore be open to any Committee to lay down and enforce a special bar of exclusion as against any particular religion, but that our money was to be applied impartially in aid of all well-regulated private orphanages, irrespective of the religious persuasion of their managers. The Committee have given full effect to these instructions, and have extended the benefit of the fund to all deserving cases, irrespective of caste or creed. Subsidies were given to orphanages in charge of mission bodies at Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Bhandara, Raipur, Nagpur and Nimar. They also participated in the gifts of clothes, Mellin's food, Triflicine, and Swiss milk received from England, and needless to say these thoughtful gifts did great good. As to Nagpur, a special grant of Rs. 1,000 was made by our Committee direct to the Roman Catholic orphanage at the agricultural village of Tanna in this district, the reason being that, though located here, the institution is a Provincial one, the inmates having been collected from all parts of the Province. A further grant of Rs. 125 was made to it in October for purchase of *rabi* seed, the chief occupation of the orphans being agriculture. The following account of this orphanage prepared at our request by the Revd. Father Patrick Wall, who is in charge of it, will no doubt be read with interest:—

"From September past the Catholic Mission of Nagpur, though in an humble way, has done its best in co-operation with the Administration and other Missionary bodies, to relieve as many famine-stricken people as possible. Not less than 2,000 people through the whole of the Nagpur Diocese receive a daily pittance, and an equal number probably receive occasional alms. However, the most important work undertaken in connection with this terrible famine is an agricultural orphanage at Tanna, a village in the tahsil of Umar. The Mission had purchased there over 1,000 acres of land some 40 years ago. From September orphans and abandoned children were met with in various districts, and were even offered from Government poor-houses. On the 28th of that month 90 such children were brought to Nagpur by the Bishop. A batch of boys, 20 in number, under the direction of a Priest and two auxiliaries, was despatched to Tanna. The accommodation being too scanty to receive more, the construction of a large house was immediately started, the boys working as coolies. Before its completion the number of boys had risen to over 80: is now over 100, and is increasing every day. Nuns specially appointed to visit the most afflicted quarters and villages find almost everywhere abandoned children whom they bring once a week to Nagpur. It was our most cherished desire to build at the same time a house of equal

dimensions for famine orphan girls, but unfortunately, with the numerous daily demands from the starving and dying, our funds proved insufficient. We were compelled to shelter these in the female orphanage at Kamptee and at the Mission poor asylum at Nagpur. The boys are at present trained in every kind of occupation suited to their status in life, carried on in a well-managed farm, such as field cultivation, gardening, cattle rearing, etc. A few are also taught carpentry, smith-craft, and weaving. In addition to manual labour of 5 or 6 hours a day, they are taught for two hours reading, writing, and ciphering in their own language. When they will be 18 to 20 years of age, they will be allowed to marry a girl of their own caste and settle in the place with enough land for a decent living, or to go back to their original villages, if they like. On this account it is most desirable and even urgent that the famine girls should be transferred there also, and receive a training suitable for cultivators' and humble tradesmen's wives. Every effort is being made to attain this object. It may be added that every care is taken that these children keep to their own social customs. Their food and their clothing, etc., are the same as those of their caste people. On the point of religion, all adults, that is, all above 7 years of age, are perfectly free. If they become Christian, it is at their own and repeated request and only after a thorough course of instruction in their duties. In conclusion we have to thank the Executive Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Central Provinces Branch, for the donation of Rs. 1,000 and of many bundles of clothing given frequently for the famine orphans."

In all 4,260 orphans have thus received the benefit of the Fund. As regards arrangements for the bringing up of orphans, who will be left undisposed of at the end of the famine, the following resolution was come to by our Committee at the 11th meeting, held on the 14th August 1897:—

"That as regards arrangements to look after the orphans after the famine, in view of the fact that the present organisation for the distribution of charitable relief would come to an end with the end of the famine, and the further fact that it is not practicable to keep up a permanent establishment specially for the orphans, the Local Administration be requested to take over all orphans for whose maintenance the Charity Fund is responsible, this Committee handing over to it in a lump sum whatever funds may eventually be provided by the Central Committees as also all allotments by the District Committee for this special object, in order that the same may be administered by the Government for the benefit of the famine orphans."

The Local Government has kindly accepted the trust, and arrangements are in progress to carry it out. It has been pointed out to all local officers in a circular letter that, speaking generally, orphans are not to be entrusted to persons living outside the Province, as their future treatment of the children could not be controlled by the Provincial authorities, and that the best way of disposing of an orphan would be to restore him or her to the society to which he or she originally belonged. In the case of orphans belonging to castes which furnish the village servants, it will frequently be found possible to arrange with the *malguzar* that the child is to be maintained in that station of life to which he belonged. In other cases the orphan may be re-absorbed in his original village community, some respectable person of the community becoming responsible for his up-bringing. In all these cases registers are to be maintained showing how and with whom the orphan has been placed out, and enquiries are to be made from time to time through the Police, the Patwari or otherwise, as may be arranged for, as to his treatment and well-being. When an orphan cannot be disposed of in this way, and when no relation of his comes forward to take charge of him, he may be handed over to an applicant who may offer to maintain and educate him without charge, preference being always given when there are rival applicants to the co-religionist of the orphan. In the case of applicants from distant districts within the Province, and of those outside the province especially, bonds are to be taken whereby they will be made to bind themselves under adequate penalties to provide a proper maintenance for the child, to treat him kindly, and to bring him up to some occupation by which he may earn his living. In no case are the orphans to be handed over to such persons until the local authorities have satisfied themselves of their respectability. Special care is to be taken in disposing of girls to see that they may not be brought up to a life of prostitution or servile concubinage. After the children who can be provided for in these ways have been eliminated, the residue are to be brought up in some recognised orphanages, which will either be maintained wholly from the Charity Fund, or to which grants will be made from it. Each Deputy Commissioner has been asked to submit a report by the middle of December, showing (1) how many orphans he has in his hands, with details of their sex,

age, and caste; (2) what applications, if any, he has received from institutions wishing to take charge of them; and (3) what terms those institutions ask for. On receipt of these reports an estimate for the whole Province will be prepared by the Local Government and sent to the Central Executive Committee, in accordance with Resolution No. 5 of their 23rd meeting, held on the 6th of September 1897. The number of orphans receiving support from the State Fund in the first week of October was, according to the reports sent by our Committees, 2,726. With the return of better times some of them must have been reclaimed by their relations since then, for many children believed to be orphans were really not so, but had merely been abandoned by their parents, or been separated from them, while wandering about in quest of food.

24. The line dividing the sphere of action of Government from that of the Charity Fund under this head is so fine that, as pointed out by the Vice-Chairman in his circular letter No. 837, a good deal of care was

Object III.

needed to prevent Government and charitable relief overlapping to the detriment of the latter. While it could be said with confidence that there was no such overlapping to any appreciable extent in the case of relief under the first two objects, the same could scarcely be predicated of relief under the third object. But while Government as using the money of the tax-payer was bound to make rigorous enquiries in order to ascertain that relief was really needed, and to give it only when asked for, no such strictness was called for in the case of the Charity Fund. It could be more freely used in helping people whose station in life forbade their publicly applying for relief, or submitting to official enquiries as a preliminary to grant of relief. However that may be, the number of persons coming under this head is comparatively small in our Province. In the first place, the *parda* system, strictly so-called, obtains here only among the Mahomedans, who constitute a small fraction of the population. And even among them those in the lower ranks of society do not observe it. As to the Hindus, only females of high families live in strict seclusion, while among the great majority of the castes, confinement within the four corners of the zenanna is a thing not known. With veils on, their females freely move about. Again, in the villages here, social relations are very simple, and everyone knows all about his neighbours. Speaking generally, respectable persons coming under this third head are therefore only to be found in big towns, and the number of such towns is not large. We thus find that gratuitous relief, strictly so-called, was given on a large scale only in a few places, such as Jubbulpore, Nagpur, Raipur and Hoshangabad, and also in the Bhandara District. The system adopted in making proper selections was to work through sub-committees of native gentlemen of high character and respectability. The matter was left more or less to their discretion, and through them periodical distribution of doles of grain or cash, or both, was made. Another mode of relief which proved very welcome was the gift of clothing. *Dhotis* and *saris* were freely given, and were everywhere accepted with the utmost thankfulness. Ladies of the Zenana Mission at Jubbulpore, Bhandara, and Nagpur and the Nuns of St. Joseph's Convent at Nagpur, also rendered valuable services in this respect, and for their voluntary labours a cordial tribute is due. Though not strictly observing the *parda*, there was no lack of families occupying respectable positions in their own society, and whose females would suffer any privation rather than take advantage of Government relief, or seek help in a manner likely to give publicity to their distressed condition. These were reached through the above ladies. Apart from district relief, our Committee also placed at the disposal of the Nuns of St. Joseph's Convent, Nagpur, cash, clothes, and blankets, with which they relieved women and children of usually well-to-do cultivators and others in villages bordering on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line between Nagpur and Raipur.

Cheap grain shops.

But it is through the cheap grain shops that the greatest amount of good has been done under this head; and here there was no room for the overlapping of Government and Charity Fund relief. Through these shops have been reached a class of people who were as hard hit by the famine as the poorest labourer, but who nevertheless were precluded by their social position from taking advantage of

charitable relief. These are people with small fixed incomes, upon which they live a hand-to-mouth life even in ordinary times. The high prices which ruled the market during the height of the famine put it out of their power to make the two ends meet, and they are known everywhere to have suffered indescribable miseries since the present distress first made its appearance. To them the Committee's shops, where they could get wholesome food-grains at reasonable rates, were a God-send. Thus was reached, at a comparatively small cost, a very wide circle of deserving people in distress, who would have suffered in silence rather than lose their self-respect by accepting gratuitous relief. The *modus operandi* of these shops may be thus briefly described. A fund was set apart from the Charity Fund, or raised by private subscriptions (as in Nagpur), for purchase of food-grains ordinarily in use among the class of people to be relieved at wholesale rates and at the cheapest markets. The grain thus purchased was stocked at convenient places where the people for whom it was intended could readily go to make their purchases. The next step was for the Committees to prepare lists of persons to whom the advantage of the shop was to be extended. This was generally done by special Sub-committees. People whose income distributed over the members of their family gave all incidence per head below a certain fixed limit (generally a rupee and a half per head per month) were given tickets entitling them to buy a certain quantity of grain every month from the shop. This quantity was fixed with reference to the number of members of their family, the allowance for adult and for children being fixed beforehand by the Committees. The stated quantity could be purchased in the lump or by instalments at the option of the ticket-holder any time during the currency of the month covered by the ticket. Each purchase would be noted on the back of the ticket, and when the total quantity sanctioned would be supplied, the ticket would be cancelled. The rates fixed were always below the prevailing market rates, and were such as gave appreciable relief. The loss resulting from these operations was charged against the Charity Fund, and represented the cost of the relief to the fund. Elaborate precautions were adopted to prevent abuse of this concession. As the sales were made only to the ticket-holders, and not to the public generally, there was no interference with private trade, and at no time and in no district was private trade affected for loss dislocated by these operations. In one way, however, the existence of these shops did interfere with private trade, but that was all through an interference which was most needed in the interest of honest trading. Before these shops were opened, there used to be now and then a combination among the local dealers who arbitrarily and unreasonably raised rates for their own ends, and what is more, offered for sale adulterated stuffs. These illegitimate tactics had to be suspended under the wholesale rivalry of the Committees' shops. The first cheap grain shop was opened at Nagpur. When, in October 1896, the city was convulsed by a series of grain riots, Mr. Bapu Rao Dada, Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, proposed the opening of such a shop from the Municipal Fund. But legal difficulties resting on the constitution of the Municipal Committee came in the way, and the proposal fell through. In the meantime prices continued to go up, and the pressure on the poorer population increased. In the city of Nagpur there is a very large population of weavers, who are well-known for the fine clothes they turn out of their looms. From time immemorial they have been supplying the needs of the Maratha population not only in this part, but also in the Bombay Presidency. Although the opening of the mill industry has interfered with their business in coarse cloth to some extent, yet, so long as the times were normal and the people were in easy circumstances, there was a fairly good demand for their goods, and they were able to earn a livelihood, though not perhaps a competency. But under the pressure of the prevailing distress, when men found it difficult to buy even the necessities of life, the demand for the products of their looms ceased, and their trade for the time being collapsed. The majority of them were unable and unfitted to seek aid at the relief works, and the result was accordingly great distress among them. To give them work, orders for clothes intended for distribution from the Charity Fund were given to them. But this could not give complete relief. The proposal to open a cheap grain shop was accordingly revived with the formation of the

Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. But as the allotment to the Nagpur Committee did not permit of an advance being made for purchase of grain for the shop, Mr. Bapu Rao raised a capital of ₹21,000 among his friends, and with this as a nucleus started the shop, the District Committee guaranteeing against loss caused by sale of grain at rates lower than the cost price. The capital carried no interest. Seths Chhogmal and Lachmichand, proprietors of one of the leading local firms trading in grain, kindly undertook the management. Their large business connections enabled them to secure the grain at the lowest available rates. Under their supervision and that of Mr. Bapu Rao the shop has proved the means of relieving thousands of poor, but respectable, families.

The following statement shows the transactions of these shops as far as they have been furnished to us :—

	Period it remained open.	No. of heads of families relieved monthly.	Price of grain bought for sale.	Loss to the Committee.
			₹	₹
Nagpur	May to November 1897	5,911	1,85,802	13,223
Kamptee	15th July to October 1897	384	1,401	353
Chanda	15th August to 31st October 1897	3,996	14,403	1,458
Balaghat	.....	1,053	5,859	...
Raipur	25th May to 31st October 1897	2,000	17,960	2,658
Jubbulpore	Two months	10,629	...	7,762
Mandla	June to October 1897	1,079	...	5,634
Sconi	28 days	1,669	1,056	280
Chhindwara	3rd July to 15th October 1897	570	10,286	1,860

25. From the very outset it was felt and recognised that, while relief of present distress was unquestionably a most worthy object to which to devote the fund, measures to ensure the future prosperity of the great agricultural industry, upon which everything in the Province depended and which had been greatly paralysed by the famine, transcended in importance even this worthy object. Accordingly, in every district, the foremost place was given to the needs of the impoverished peasant cultivators, with the result that ₹26,52,492 out of a total expenditure of ₹29,25,369 (or 90 per cent.) have been spent in giving them cattle to plough and seed to sow their lands, and in many instances subsistence allowances in addition to enable them to tide over the interval between the sowing and the harvest time. Although it has been found impossible even with this very large sum to extend to all the fullest measure of relief, or to reach all who needed and deserved relief, none the less the amount of good that has been done is simply incalculable. Apart from the personal benefit to the tenants relieved, the economic advantage to the community generally from their re-habilitation at a crisis of the agricultural season, has been immense. The money spent on them is now coming back many times over in the shape of a bountiful harvest which it has pleased Providence to bless the country with.

26. Great attention was everywhere paid to devise and mature schemes to ensure distribution of this large sum worthily and economically. Thanks to the Local Government, the whole machinery of the District Revenue Administration was made available for this important and difficult task. As the districts affected were not equally circumstanced as regards the character and habits of the tenants, the nature of their lands, the kind of seed they needed, their modes of cultivation, the existence of local stocks of grain to meet their requirements and such like matters, it was not thought desirable to lay down one uniform plan of action for all. The discretion of the District Committees was accordingly left unfettered. The following may, however, be said to be the main features of the system adopted :—

The work divided itself into two parts :—(1) the selection of the tenants to be relieved, and (2) the distribution of the relief to them. The agency employed

for the collection of information under the first head was the District Land Record staff. Each Patwari prepared for his circle a list of agriculturists who in his opinion needed help. The list was checked by the Revenue Inspector, assisted by the chief malgnzars of the circle and the Local Board members. The following considerations were to guide them in framing the lists:—

- (a) That the Charity Fund was intended only for the utterly destitute, and none who had any possessions or credit left were to participate in its benefit. This had the effect of excluding all those who were in a position to get loans from Government, and thus prevented overlapping of the system of relief.
- (b) Those whose lands lay fallow wholly or largely in 1895 were to have preference, for if they had no credit or advances in 1895, they were not likely to have any in 1896.
- (c) Next were to come those who had no bullocks and were not in a position to secure any, for no one would advance seed to a man whose chances of sowing it were doubtful.
- (d) Next those whose lands lay in high or in unfavourable positions, and regarding whom it was known or might be presumed that their crops failed in 1895 and who were at the same time known to be without resources.
- (e) After these were exhausted, names were to be added of other ryots who were very poor or involved in debt to such an extent as to make it unlikely that anybody would lend them seed.

After the lists would be thus got ready, the Tahsildar was to check a few of them at random either by local enquiry, or from his personal knowledge, or from his office papers, or otherwise as he might think fit. As regards distribution, it was fully recognised that there was a great opening here for speculation. For whatever was to be given was to be a free gift, and not a loan carrying liability to repay. The recipient was, therefore, likely to submit even more readily than usual to black-mail. Accordingly special measures were taken to ensure that the money reached those for whom it was intended. The work of distribution was everywhere entrusted to responsible officers of Government acting under the direction of the Deputy Commissioners. In some districts there was a strong staff of special relief officers, and they were employed in the work. For the *kharif* distribution, which was the principal distribution, the services of Civil Judges and Munsiffs, whose courts were closed for the summer vacation just at the right time, were, under the orders of the Local Government, also utilised to the full. Again, everywhere many public-spirited members of District and Local Boards and our own Committees co-operated with the officers of Government in the work, and by their local knowledge rendered valuable help. The Patwari's list was to serve only as a rough guide. The actual selection of the recipient was to be made on the spot by the distributing officer personally, and the money was to be handed over in his presence. As regards the shape the relief took, ordinarily money grants were made, leaving it to the tenants to make their own arrangements to secure the necessary grain and cattle. But in some districts and parts of districts it was found necessary to give seed and bullocks. These were places where the local stocks had been depleted, and where, owing to the difficulty of communication, or other like causes, there was no likelihood of private enterprise supplying the needs of the tenants. And here, if left to themselves, they would have been unable to benefit by money grants. Further, there were some classes of people, specially among the aboriginal hill tribes, who, if given cash, would have diverted it to illegitimate purposes. In their case, too, the gifts were made in kind. In making gifts of bullocks care was taken to prevent their seizure in execution of decrees. Instead of making them the exclusive property of the tenants, they were handed over to a sort of Committee of the chief men of the village, who were made responsible for their keep, getting a grant from the Committee for the purpose. The animals thus remained the property of the Committee, and could not therefore be made available for the satisfaction of the debts of the tenants, whose only right over them was the right of user. Seizure of agricultural cattle is no doubt illegal under the Code of Civil Procedure, but none

the less they are often attached in defiance of law, and the tenants, to avoid the trouble, expense, and loss of time incidental to Court proceedings, do not generally care to object. Accordingly the above expedient had to be adopted, and it proved effective. This system had another advantage. Funds did not permit of gift of cattle to every tenant. The bullocks made over to the village Committee were available for use by all the village tenants in distress by turn.

27. The following extract from Mr. Assistant Commissioner Low's report, who personally distributed ₹1,04,679 in Bilaspur, shows how the system described above actually worked :—

"All distributions were made on the spot. The money was carried about in two large boxes on an elephant under a Police guard of two men, who proved more than sufficient. On starting work the tent was opened on one side, and three or four tables placed in a row. These were occupied by the Tahsildar or Revenue Inspector, who were assisting me in making the enquiry, by Mr. Streatfeild, whose special province was that of paying out the cash, and by myself. It was my practice to take two or three villages in the presence of the Tahsildar or Revenue Inspector, and when I was quite sure that they understood the principles on which to proceed, I set them to work. Their proposals were checked and signed by me, before being sent on to Mr. Streatfeild for payment. Each village was entered up by a patwari in the register of payments, as it was paid, showing the amount given to, and the name of, each man and the total for the village. *

* * * Each village list, being signed by Mr. Streatfeild as paid in his presence, served as a voucher. * * * We usually had about ten or twenty Patwaris at work, and a hill-tent, containing the enquiring and disbursing staff, three or four moharirs, and, say, fifteen Patwaris, is not an elysium in the middle of May. As regards the appearance and demeanour of the recipients, it is not easy to do full justice to its peculiarities. The hundreds, even thousands, of quaint creatures, each with his daily stock of food tied up in little knots in his clothes, his head sometimes bare, and sometimes protected from the sun by his *kumri*, a sort of cross between a hat and a parasol, made of leaves and bamboo, his long leaf pipe stuck behind his ear, would have been a striking sight to a visitor from the outside world

* * * Disappointed applicants, who were, I regret to say, only too numerous, were most persistent, and, though one did not like to be harsh to them, in view of their very real distress, they had often to be removed somewhat unceremoniously to allow work to proceed. The insanitary conditions caused by the massing together of the thousands who often surrounded our camp were not without their effects, and we had numerous cases of cholera both among the applicants for relief and among our staff. These we dealt with as so far as we were able * * *

On revisiting the circles when the second allotment was disbursed, I had numerous opportunities of seeing how the original recipients had employed the money. Many had of course spent a greater or less portion of it on food. One family of Gonds even went the length of buying goats, liquor, and other appurtenances of a feast, and giving themselves and their neighbours the treat of a square meal, after which they returned to the road works. A long course of insufficient food produces, I imagine, the same kind of craving in these persons for a really good meal, that a long march in the sun does in more civilized individuals for a really satisfactory long drink. Yet there were very few cases in which a substantial proportion of the money had not been set aside for or used to purchase seed grain. The purchase of this is not an easy matter, involving journeys to village after village in search of it."

The following abstracted from the Mandla report by Mr. Balaji Gangadhar, also illustrates the same subject, giving at the same time some of the incidents attending the distribution of relief :—

"Lists of tenants in distress had been prepared in advance by the Patwaris and checked by the Revenue Inspectors and Additional Tahsildars. The total requirements according to these lists being much in excess of the allotment that could be made, viz., ₹1,10,000, they had to be cut down to make the two ends meet. This sum was divided among seven disbursing officers, to each of whom a definite area was assigned. In each such area four or five disbursing centres were fixed, and at each centre it was arranged that cultivators within a certain defined circle should collect for receiving their grants. As the disbursing officers visited one of these centres, he found there a considerable crowd already collected. They had come under the guidance of their respective patwaris, mukaddams and kotwars. They had been hearing since March last that seed and plough-cattle would be given to such of them as were in distress, free of cost, but they could hardly believe this. They would say in reply to those who gave them the news: 'Yes, the Sarkar will give seed and bullocks.' But the tone implied incredulity, and the half-stifled sigh which followed showed how much they wished for, but doubted, such a thing happening. When, however, they saw the disbursing officer with his bags full of coin, they felt that things were really getting interesting, and there arose a murmur of excited expectation and half-expressed gratitude. The ryots who had been told that gratuitous help would be given them were of course there. But along with them were others who had come hoping to get *tacavi*, as the disbursing officer had with him also Government money for *tacavi* advances. And there were again

many more who were not tenants at all, but had been attracted by the rumour that money was to be given in charity. Among these latter were a number of utterly destitute and emaciated wanderers, who refuse all organised relief as provided by Government, even when given gratuitously and in the most attractive manner, but whom an innate dislike to anything like settled life seems to drive restlessly from place to place. The appearance of the place was not without its peculiarities. There were the tenants seated in uneasy looking and expectant attitudes, keenly watching the proceedings and awaiting their turn to be called up; there were the kotwars (village watchmen) decked in their red pagris and long spears, keeping order and marshalling up the people by their villages and bringing them forward as they were called; and then the little group of patwaris and local malguzars with the disbursing officer at the centre. The mornings were occupied in checking the lists made by the patwaris. Every ryot whose name found a place in them was called up, his own statement of his condition heard, and, so far as possible, verified by the headman or some respectable resident of the village. The people of this district, mostly Gonds, are a simple race, and it is not difficult to elicit the truth from them. Sometimes the applicant would hazard a recklessly general statement that he had no cattle for ploughing, but a little cross-questioning would elicit the fact that this only meant he had not his proper number; one was dead or had been sold, but one was still in his possession. On the other hand, some cases of real dishonesty had to be dealt with, and several attempts at impersonation were discovered. Mr. Sharp mentions the following interesting instance, showing how reluctant some persons were to accept the charitable aid:—

‘The men of one village, who certainly gave me no impression of great wealth, came to say they wanted a loan, but their landlord would not stand security, though the men had lands to mortgage: therefore a loan could not be granted to them. On enquiry into their condition I came to the conclusion that they were deserving of gratuitous relief, and offered it to them, but they with unwonted pride refused it; they wanted nothing but a loan. I referred them to the district head-quarters, and am glad to say that they were then persuaded that the receipt of a present would not be derogatory to their dignity. Whereupon they returned to me, and each received a new start in life from the Charitable Fund.’

“Generally there was nothing particularly striking or pathetic in the proceedings, for the real pathos and significance of the whole matter lay in its monotony. It was the same sad tale all over,—seed all gone, plough-cattle, some or all, dead or sold, the ryot and his family subsisting mostly on jungle produce, or maintaining themselves by working at the relief camps. It was a pleasure to help these latter, the men who had the good sense to help themselves by taking advantage of the works. They were able to go back to their fields in a fit condition, while those who had not the energy or the sense to follow the example, but had stayed at home eking out a precarious living in their villages and forests, frequently bore marks of extreme privation. But the influx of these men and the necessity of enrolling them afresh on the list of deserving tenants made the already heavy work still heavier, and it was often late before the necessary amount of checking and new enrolling had been done, and all retired for the midday meal. Next followed the filling in of the receipt forms and the making up of the cash-book and other clerical work, and then in the afternoon came the great event of the day—the actual distribution of the money. This took place in the presence of all in the verandah of the Police post, or if there was none, in the tent, or else under the shade of some big tree. The same crowd was already there, and those villagers who had been selected in the morning as deserving of help were placed in front. The first thing was to explain to all who were assembled the nature and purpose of the fund—that it had been raised by subscriptions in England and in other parts of the world to help them, and the like of them, in their present distress; it was further impressed on them that the money must be used for agricultural purposes, and not frittered away. When the amount of the total subscriptions was mentioned, a hum of wonder at its magnitude generally broke forth. The money bags were then opened, and the people called up village by village; as each recipient came to the table, he made his mark or touched the pen with which the entry of receipt was made in the books, and the money was then counted out and paid. Sometimes before telling them how much they were to receive, they were asked how much they wanted to enable them to till their fields; the sum suggested generally tallied fairly with what had been decided upon.”

The reluctance to accept charity referred to by Mr. Sharp was a feature in some of the other districts also. Mr. Sadasheo Rao, of Narsinghpur, makes mention of a class of people there who call themselves “*Kanovas*” and claim to be descended from the *Kouravas* of the *Mahabharat*. They have a high sense of honour, and though reduced to abject poverty, they declined to accept the proffered aid as charity, though willing to take it as loan. To satisfy their *amour propre* it was given in the garb of a loan, without of course any intention of recovering it. The same thing happened with the *Kallars* in the Seoni District. Excommunication is the penalty their strict caste rules prescribe for all those who, forgetting what they owe to the honour of their caste, accept charity from the public. Mr. Haridas Chatterjee, of Khandwa, says:—

“In some villages where our officers had gone to make distributions for *rabi*, the poor cultivators actually refused to take advantage of it, remarking ‘Thank our benefactors for having saved us at the time of our need, but now (pointing to the standing *kharif*), as God has been merciful to us, we do not want any more aid.’”

28. It must be admitted that, speaking generally, these gifts were received with stolid indifference. But the class of people relieved are little given, as a rule, to noisy demonstration of either grief or joy. None

Gratitude of the people.

the less this boon of free gifts of seed-grain and plough-cattle at a most opportune moment made a great impression. At the beginning the tenants could not realize that all their needs were going to be supplied free of cost. Such an act of generosity was not part of their past experience. Advances for agricultural requirements meant for people in their circumstances incurring liabilities on onerous terms and at heavy rates of interest. The minute enquiries made as to their losses in the past, their resources in the present, and their needs in the future had therefore not unnaturally the effect of rousing their suspicions, and at the outset they were rather backward in coming forward. But gradually they come to understand that large sums had been raised by public subscriptions in England and elsewhere, and that these were going to be distributed among them as free gifts. At most places this unprecedented act of benevolence stirred their innermost heart. Many with uplifted hands invoked Heaven's blessings on their unknown benefactors, whilst others threw themselves at the feet of the officers engaged in the work of relief and in their own rude way tried to show how deeply they appreciated what was being done to them. In some places they were unable to understand that their donor was other than their "mabap," the "Sirkar". "And the impersonal way in which they regard this abstraction or any of its various incarnation from a Tahsildar upwards is," says Mr. Low, "the main cause of this apparent want of feeling." Mr. Shewell, of Raipur, writes:—

"The tenants took the distribution in a very matter of fact manner, but I think the reason that so little apparent gratitude was shown was that since the failure of the crops last year the tenants had been told that they would be helped by seed. Some of them remarked that, if it had not been for the English people, they and their families would have died, concerning which there is no doubt."

Mr. Gopal Dutt Joshi, Civil Judge, one of the distributing officers in Saugor, writes:—

"The recipients of relief very gratefully accepted the gifts, and, conscious as they were of their own helplessness and destitution, their expressions of gratitude towards their generous donors at the timely help extended to them were so loud and profuse as to defy description. A large number in their own artless way thus gave vent to their feelings—'Long live the Maharani under whose benign rule and care we live, and may we be of some use in this world or the next to those kindly disposed persons who have come forward to help us in this time of our sore distress.'"

Dr. Quinn in his report of the Damoh Committee writes:—

"The joy and satisfaction evinced by the recipients of these grants can better be imagined than described. The needy tenants had thronged at Damoh in thousands. The town was congested for about a month. British bounty was admired and gratefully acknowledged."

The one drawback to this great act of charity was the inevitable disappointment of those who could not be made to participate in it. But even as it is, great as has been the material gain, the moral gain has, perhaps, been greater. The tens of thousands who have benefited by the fund have carried with them the message of good will and sympathy as embodied in it to a vast number of homes and to the remotest corners of the Province.

29. Mr. Robertson, Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore, and Chairman, Jubbulpore Committee, has kindly drawn up the following

Distribution of American grain.

ing memorandum on the distribution of grain received from America:—

"When it was known that grain was expected from America for distribution in famine districts, the Revd. Dr. Johnson, of Jubbulpore, was kind enough to say that he would use his endeavours to procure a supply for this district. He asked me to let him know the railway stations to which it should be sent. I accordingly instructed him that grain might be sent in certain stated proportions to Kutni, Sleemanabad Road, Sehora Road and Jubbulpore stations on the East Indian Railway.

About the middle of August I was informed that a large consignment was being despatched as arranged. The first to arrive was the consignment for Kutni, which came about August 20th. Information of its arrival was at once wired to me, and I went to Kutni to arrange for its distribution. By this time the famine in the adjoining district of Mandla had developed in a serious manner, and the Commissioner of the Jubbulpore Division dressed me to spare some of the grain intended for my district, so that it might be available

for Mandla. I therefore arranged to send one truck of the Kutni grain direct to Jubbulpore, so that the Mandla district might receive this as an advance consignment. A further supply would be sent to Mandla from the Jubbulpore consignment itself as soon as the latter arrived. Two trucks were sent to Rupond station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to be distributed by the Circle Officer of Barwara. One truck was made over to the Church Missionary Society at Kutni for distribution amongst the poor of the town. The remainder was given out in doles among the poorer classes of cultivators, particularly aborigines and low-castes. We had already lists of these poor cultivators prepared for the purposes of the Mansion House Fund. The amount of the latter was not sufficient to adequately supply the cultivators with food-grain during the rains, when they were ploughing their fields and tending their crops, and the distribution of the American grain therefore served a most useful object in to some extent supplying this want.

The distribution was effected in every case under the control of a Famine Relief officer, and I can testify to the work having been well carried out. The general plan adopted was, first, to choose a village where the inhabitants were aborigines or were known to be specially poor. The Mansion House relief list of the village was scrutinized, and the poorer tenants selected. A signed ticket was then given to the tenant for 20 or 30 seers, or as the case might be, and he was told to go to the Central Store where the grain was kept, present his ticket, and receive his dole. Tickets of different colours were issued for different quantities of grain, so that the illiterate people might know the value of their tickets and got supplied with the right amount.

This was the usual procedure, though local officers occasionally departed from it according to local circumstances. I may add that the plan enabled distribution to be done at very little cost. The cultivators were ready to walk long distances to the Central Store to get their supply, and as in the rains almost the only means of transport in this district is by coolies, the cultivators did the carrying themselves, and there was thus no extra cost.

The consignments for Sleemanabad, Sehora, and Jubbulpore all arrived before the end of August, and distribution was taken in hand at once. Of the Jubbulpore consignment, $\frac{5 \text{ trucks}}{(1,768 \text{ mds})}$ were given to the Mandla District, and the American Mission kept $\frac{3}{(1,036 \text{ mds.})}$, making over $\frac{6}{(2,091 \text{ mds.})}$ trucks to me for distribution in the villages in the south of the district.

One remark I must make, and that is, that a good deal of wastage took place in handling the grain at the railway stations, as the bags in which it was received were generally in a bad state. It was in fact found necessary to buy new bags, into which to put the grain before it could be carted from the railway. These bags, when the grain was distributed, were re-sold and their value credited to the Charitable Fund, which had borne the expenses of distribution. As already explained, the expenses were comparatively light. The accounts received show that the whole distribution was effected at a cost of considerably under Rs1,000.

I append a short statement showing details of distribution as carried out by the agency of the Deputy Commissioner :—

Place.	Families helped.	Number of persons in the families.	Quantity of grain distributed.	REMARKS.
Kutni	4,896	17,000	Mds. 2,580	354 Mds. to Mandla. 363 „ to Church Missionary Society.
Sleemanabad (Sehora)	5,530	19,000	3,340	
Jubbulpore	4,000	15,000	2,100	

In closing this note I would finally say that the grain was thankfully received by the cultivators. They were not quite sure what to do with the beans, but I believe the general impression was that they should be ground and used as "dal" (pulse-meal which is eaten mixed with rice). A desire was prevalent in some places to keep back a little of the rye, which was considered a new kind of wheat, and sow it. From this I dissuaded the cultivators as it would not grow properly here. Mr. Marriott, one of the most experienced of my relief officers, has told me that the people were keener about the distribution of the grain than about any other kind of relief. It was the form of charity which appealed to them most, and I can testify from my own experience to the gratitude with which it was received."

30.* For the distressed Feudatory States in the Chhattisgarh Division, the Central Committee made a special grant of Rs25,000; to this our Committee added Rs10,000, making a total of Rs35,000.

These States are 14 in number. They do not constitute part of British India, but are ruled by their own Chiefs, who raise their own revenue and are responsible for the well-being of the people under

* This paragraph is based on papers kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee by Mr. Younghusband, Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division.

their charge, over whom they wield quasi-sovereign powers. Their revenues vary from about half a lakh to about three lakhs in the year. Their aggregate population is a little over 21 lakhs. The States are all solvent. At the same time they have necessarily to live more or less from hand to mouth, and have no reserves of capital to fall back upon. The relief of distress in anything like a serious form is enough to tax not only all the available balance, but practically all the credit of any of these little States. In the eastern group, consisting of five of these States, the conditions were closely akin to those of the Sambalpur District, with which they are geographically connected. They all had a full average rice harvest, which is their principal crop. And, although the high prices of grain, stimulated by increased facilities of export, have pressed heavily on some of the poorer classes, the condition generally was not such as to justify the diversion to them of any portion of the Charitable Fund. The two southern States of Kanker and Bastar were also similarly circumstanced, and there was no need to help them too.

It was only the remaining seven States that were in a distressed condition and requiring help from the Charity Fund. Their population is 770,260. Rupees 35,000 have been thus apportioned among these :—

	R
Kawarda	6,750
Chhuikhadan	3,750
Khairagarh	5,500
Raj Nandgaon	6,000
Sarangarh	5,000
Raigarh	3,500
Sakti	4,500

The villages of the first four of these States are very much interlaced into the villages of the Raipur District, and the development of distress has been the same in them all. There was thus the same scope here for the action of private charity by way of supplement to the State relief, as organized by the Chiefs themselves, as there was in the neighbouring district of Raipur. Relief has generally taken the shape of providing the inmates of the poor-houses maintained by the States with clothes and blankets, and in giving seed-grain and bullocks to the needy agriculturists. As regards local agencies for distribution of the relief, it would appear from the Commissioner's report that the Chiefs of these States (where there are ruling Chiefs) are all enlightened and public-spirited rulers, and they take a personal interest in the administration of famine-relief in their States. In everyone of them, moreover, there is a selected Government official of standing, in the capacity either of Superintendent, or of Diwan, whose duty it is to see to the proper application of the money. There are also plenty of non-official residents of the class which has done so much good work in our District Committees, whose services have been availed of in this matter of right distribution of the Fund.

The following table gives the number of persons relieved in these seven States :—

Under object	I	II	III	IV
	2,841	491	173	10,140

DISTRICT REPORTS.

31. The form which relief under the first two objects generally took was
 Raipur. to give extra diet, medical comforts, and especially
 Mr. Oswell. clothes. A regular monthly grant was also made
 to a private poor-house maintained by the Revd. J. Lohr in Bistrampur. The cases of specially prepared foods received from England did much good to children and the sick. It is in the direction of clothing, however, that a great deal has been done. Many of the inmates of poor-houses and the relief-workers came with literally nothing but a rag to cover their nakedness, and the value of this form of relief in saving life and its popularity have been testified by all relieving officers.

Cloth has been obtained in three ways—

- (1) By purchase from local weavers.
- (2) Recovered from weavers who have received advances from the Committee. By far the largest amount of cloth has been obtained in this way, as the Committee has been giving direct relief to weavers on rather a large scale.
- (3) Received in bales as gifts from England. In all four bales were received—2 bales of clothing and 2 of blankets. Of the two former, the contents of one having been found unsuitable for distribution, and there being no demand for them amongst the respectable classes who were being relieved at the time with money doles, were sold by auction, and a handsome sum realized, the sale-proceeds having been utilized in the purchase of flannel, etc., out of which over 1,000 children have been relieved by means of small jackets made out of the material bought, and relief at the same time afforded to small tailors who made them up. Relief has, therefore, been given in a more practical form and extended over a wider area than would have been possible with the original garments. The second bale of clothing, received through the Commissioner, was found more suitable for distribution and was given to three missionary agencies in the district, and the missionaries have all recorded their appreciation of the gifts, and that of those to whom they gave them. Of the two bales of blankets, one was found to consist of really handsome woollen rugs. Here, again, with the consent of the Central Committee, an auction was held, and with the proceeds 78 more suitable country blankets were given to the sick in the Poor-House Hospital, thus again distributing the relief over a wider area, the Committee feeling assured that, in acting as they did, they were only carrying out the wishes of the kind and thoughtful donors. The other bale contained 65 blankets, and they were personally distributed by the Deputy Commissioner on one of his tours in the district.

With the setting in of the cold weather the demand for blankets has largely increased, and the recent allotments of funds made specially for the purchase of blankets has been most welcome. The distribution of blankets is still in active progress, chiefly to workers as final gifts on their being sent to their villages as the works gradually close. As many as possible are being purchased from the actual makers, a class called Gararujas, who are really shepherds and cowherds, and who combine the making of blankets with their own legitimate occupations.

One important branch of the Raipur Poor-House is the Leper Asylum, and the inmates of this have been receiving grants for small luxuries where-with to alleviate their sufferings, and gifts of clothing and bedding. Regarding the education of orphans, Mr. Gangasing, Extra Assistant Commissioner, in the relief circle under his charge, has been providing them with elementary technical education.

Under Object III relief, by money doles, has not been confined to headquarters, but has been carried on by relief officers all over the district. For the purposes of this relief in Raipur the town was divided into circles, and individual members of the Committee made themselves responsible for each circle. Four classes of tickets were issued, and the recipients of relief divided into corresponding classes according to the extent of their distress. By adopting this system it was possible to gradually reduce the relief without unnecessary hardships. Until now there are a very few cases left, and these will be off the Committee's hands shortly. The amount of the doles, too, have been gradually diminished. Farewell gifts are now being made to the old and infirm of pieces of cloth. The Committee worked for sometime side by side with Government. Finally, the Committee took the relief over entirely, Government making them a subsidy in aid. The cheap grain under the charge of Mr. Gour has done an immense amount of good. He writes:—

“The first day of our opening was something to be remembered. For days previous crowds hovered round our future shop and made anxious enquiries as to the date of its open-

ing. The prices in the bazar had been reduced to the merest gambling, as they fluctuated according to even the petty demands made by the mofussil purchasers, and as regards the quality of the stuff offered, it cannot be characterized as anything but dirty sand, pulverized leaves of peepal and other trees, and *bhusa* and chopped straw were only too freely employed in admixing with rice and wheat. And this stuff even could not be anywhere had at more than seven seers per rupee. The uniform rate at which we commenced to sell wheat and rice was 10 seers per rupee. The sale was authorised only to persons who were recommended as not possessing an income of more than Rs5 per mensem.

The shop has relieved those honest poor who, though too proud to receive gratuitous doles, were all the more deserving of our greatest sympathy. These men who work hard and get little, would have been indeed very hardly off, were it not for our grain shop."

The classes that have been relieved under Object IV have been—

- (i) Distressed cultivators.
- (ii) Weavers.
- (iii) Artizans other than weavers.

1. To take the case of distressed cultivators first—

The *Pitwaris'* lists were not of much practical use, as they were prepared on too liberal a scale, and it would have been impossible to relieve all whose names found a place on these lists. For the purposes of distribution the district was divided into 11 circles, each being in charge of an officer of Government. Personal distribution of relief has been the rule.

The different forms which relief to distressed cultivators have taken are—

- 1. *Kharif* seed grain.
- 2. *Khawai* or subsistence allowance.
- 3. *Rabi* seed grain.
- 4. Plough cattle.
- 5. Loans.

1. To take *kharif* seed grain first—

A Special Sub-Committee, with the Deputy Commissioner as President, was appointed to administer this form of relief.

In some cases allotments of money were made to relieving officers, and they were instructed to make their own arrangements for the purchase of seed grain for distribution. In other cases actual grants of grain were made to officers for distribution in centres where grain was not to be had locally. These grants were made from stores of grain purchased and collected at certain centres. There were certain villages where either the seed did not germinate, or the crops as they came up failed from lack of sufficient moisture, and the case of these villages has not been lost sight of. Provision has been made for them by the purchase and storage of a certain quantity of this season's *dhán*. Certain loans, too, which will be recoverable early in May 1898, will be available for the purchase of *dhán* for these villagers, whose case deserves special consideration from the fact that not only have their *kharif* crops failed, but also their *rabi* sowings.

The giving of subsistence allowance to cultivators with the special object of keeping them in heart during the weary period of waiting for the harvest, and further of keeping them in health and strength to enable them to look to their fields, has been a special feature of relief.

All the reports of relieving officers testify to its value and importance as supplementary to the liberal aid given by Government in the same direction. These reports testify not only to its efficacy in actually saving life, but to its being the means of preventing many a hard-pressed cultivator from selling his standing crops in advance, in order to obtain the means of keeping himself and his family alive.

The system of distribution varied according to the needs of the cultivators in the respective circles. Some officers found a combination of grants of grain with cash most efficacious; others gave cash only.

That no demoralization has resulted from this charitable relief has been well illustrated in this district by the sudden cessation of the demand for *khawai* as soon as the crops began to ripen. Sooner than be dependent upon others, the cultivators in many circles would cut from their standing crops just enough to meet their limited requirements for the day. This characteristic was still more strikingly exhibited in another circle by the refusal of certain

cultivators to accept money grants being made them for *rabi* sowings, on the ground that it would be useless, as they were unable to sow from want of sufficient moisture in the soil. The special value to tenants of their *rabi* crops lies in the fact that the better prices obtainable for the more valuable crops of which the *rabi* harvest consists, enable them to pay rents and outstanding debts. The relief, therefore, that has been given in this direction should, if all goes well, prove most valuable. The area sown with the aid of the Charity Fund is as much as 86,863 acres.

As regards plough-cattle, three methods were followed :—

1. Some relieving officers themselves purchased the cattle, and distributed them through the headmen of villages to villagers in need. These men were made responsible for their keep, and a small grant made to them for the purpose.
2. In the other cases sums of money were given to tenants wherewith to buy cattle.
3. One relieving officer found it the best plan to give small sums of money to cultivators to enable them, following their general custom, to hire cattle.

The Forest Department had opened out their jungle reserves for the free grazing of cattle purchased by the Committee. The jungles in the north-west zamindaries were also freely made use of. The Committee are now considering the question of the future disposal of the cattle, which of course are their property, as they have purposely been lent, not given, to prevent their being seized for debt. They are now in some cases being utilized in connection with a scheme elaborated by the Deputy Commissioner for the rehabilitation of cultivators, some 50,000 of whom, at a census taken in July, were found absent from their respective villages. But now villages which were practically deserted are being again peopled, and these new-comers are to be presented with a yoke of oxen or so apiece, and with a small sum whereby to earn a livelihood by trading until their lands can be got ready for cultivation. In other cases relieving officers are being permitted to present them to the most deserving of the tenants in their circles. Relieving officers have also been instructed to utilize balances in their hands under any of the heads of relief in the same direction, and this is being now done. Agricultural loans have not been made on any large scale. Early in the year a small loan was made at his special request to the Revd. J. Lohr, a Missionary and Honorary Magistrate, who has been doing signal service in the cause of relief in his part of the district—Bisrampur—for certain Christian cultivators. The Committee have since converted this into a free gift, and have received his special thanks for doing so. Another small loan has been granted to certain small *malguzars* in the Drug Tahsil, but this will be recovered from them, as they will be able to afford it after the *rabi* crops are harvested, for which purpose it was specially made. This is also the case with a rather larger loan which has recently been made to some small *malguzars* on behalf of their tenants in the north-west zamindaries at the special request of Mr. Shewell.

Next under head IV, we come to weavers. More direct relief has been given to those people in this district than perhaps elsewhere, and next to cultivators they form a very important class. The system adopted was to make money advances and to demand in return cloth to the value, as much as possible, of the amounts advanced. As much cloth as might reasonably have been expected has been returned, and has proved a most valuable adjunct to the resources of relief at the disposal of the Committee. The value of the recoveries, exceeding half of the total sums advanced, the balance when distributed over the total number of weavers relieved only represents an incidence of about R4 for the whole period for each head of a family, corresponding practically to the amount given as *khawai* to the cultivators. This shows how small an amount is required to give effective relief, if only a stimulus can be given to trade.

It was at first thought that the Government would have undertaken this relief directly, but at the request of the Deputy Commissioner the Committee undertook it, at first with a subsidy from Government, but afterwards as it was found that the Committee would have full use for all the cloth, they took it over altogether.

In a supplementary report by Mr. Gour, he gives the classes of weavers relieved as follows :—

1. Pankas.
2. Momins.

3. Koshtas.
4. Salewars.

He says :—

"The classification is arranged in the ascending scale, the Pankas being low caste weavers, the Momins being nomadic Mnsulmans from the North-Western Provinces plying a similar trade, the Koshtas and Salewars being Hindus, the latter belonging to a Telegu-speaking race, making cloth specially adapted for the use of high caste Hindu women. It is significant that the order in which I have classified these artizans is also the order in which they appeared before me for relief. The low caste Panka living from hand to mouth even in ordinary times was the first to suffer; the Momin, who, like his *confrere*, the Panka, also leads a desultory life, was the next; while the thrifty Hindu, who came to me last of all, held out till distress was really acute and the market absolutely dull. Other artizans who came for relief were the blanket-makers or Gurarujas: they also in the best of times lead but a precarious existence."

Of all these classes, Mr. Gour considers the Momins as least deserving of relief. Finally, comes the class of artizans other than weavers. In this may be included workers in brass and copper, otherwise called tanners, goldsmiths, and silversmiths, or *sonars*, bangle-makers or workers in lac, besides tailors and dyers and craftsmen of other petty industries. The great value of this form of relief, again, like that given to weavers, was the stimulus given to trade. Valedictory doles are being made to alleviate cases of hardships arising from a too sudden cessation of the ordinary relief that has been so regularly sought and so regularly given. It has been given to weavers, to townspeople, to villagers, and to individuals, being sent to their respective homes from the relief works that are now being closed, and from poor-houses; and a very acceptable form of relief it is proving.

Report concludes :—

"*Finis coronat opus*: with the help of a favourable agricultural season the Committee may now have some reason to congratulate itself upon the result of its labours, and, though finality has not yet been reached in its operations, it is not far off, for—in the expressive words of a cultivator—'The famine is no longer a *Desh ka Dukhl*, it is but a *Ganw ka Dukhl*.' It now therefore remains for this Committee, in the name of all who have benefitted from the fund, to thank those generous donors, whether in India or in England, whose hearts have been stirred to give so freely of their substance to relieve their distressed fellow-beings in their hour of dire distress."

32. The part of the district which was most affected is known as the *Chhindwara—Mr. Mathura Prasad. Jagir*. The soil here consists of barren stoney land hardly one foot in depth, which requires a copious rainfall to raise even the inferior millets which form the staple crop of the aboriginal tribes who people this tract. Even in good years the outturn hardly suffices to maintain the cultivator and his family all the year round. So they migrate to the Nerbudda Valley at harvest time, after which they return to collect the *mahua* in their villages, and on this they subsist till the early rain crops ripen in August.

The Committee decided that it was unnecessary to give additional comforts in the shape of food, and that the funds allotted under Object I could not be better employed than in the distribution of clothes. The majority of relief-workers and other recipients of relief were found to be miserably provided with clothing, and on the advent of rainy season many would have succumbed to the effects of exposure, unless supplied with clothes. In making allotments of clothing, the Committee were guided by the reports received from local Sub-Committees and Government officers, and care was taken that the tracts which were most distressed received the most liberal allowances. Thus in the hilly parts of the *Jagirs* as many as 1,850 blankets and 5,702 *dhotis* and *saris* were distributed among a population of 68,000 souls. Experience shows that the people set more value on gifts of clothing than on any other form of relief. The bales received from England were highly appreciated. Shirts, coats, *mirzais* and *pajamas* were made out of the woollen materials and distributed to inmates of the Poor-House and Orphanage. The other stuffs were found most acceptable by *pardanashin* females in Chhindwara. On the opening of an orphanage in the Chhindwara Poor-House a school was started, at which all boys and girls of school-going age were taught. The number of such pupils is 99. A master on R10 and a monitor on R7 a month have

been entertained to teach the children. A cheap grain shop was opened to afford relief to the artizan and other labouring classes, who would not accept charity. The selection of deserving people was carefully done, and, as elsewhere, the shop proved most popular and did a great deal of good. One indirect effect of the opening of this shop was to bring down the price of grain from the artificially raised rate of ₹28 a *khandi* to ₹23, and finally to ₹20. Under Object III a considerable number of usually well-to-do landholders, who, though in great distress, had refused Government relief, were relieved through Sub-Committees of respectable native gentlemen. In distributing relief under Object IV, the first place was given to the Jagir tract. Here there were few tenants who could take advantage of Government *tacavi* advances, and enquiries showed that villages after villages were entirely depleted of grain, either for food or seed. The funds available being much below the actual requirements of the people, no tenant received more on account of seed than was sufficient to sow an area representing the plough capacity of a pair of bullocks. Tenants without bullocks received the price of one bullock only, on the understanding that they were to arrange to borrow the services of a second bullock, and those possessed of one bullock were, as a rule, given an allowance for seed only. The sums thus distributed varied from ₹3 to ₹15 per tenant, the incidence per tenant as a whole being ₹9-7-9. In no case was subsistence allowance granted, it being held that the *mahua* crop would support the cultivators during the sowing time, while once the crop was on the ground they could support themselves on the relief works in the neighbourhood. As regards the use to which the grants were put, many doubtless borrowed bullocks from their neighbours and spent their money wholly on seed; others purchased bullocks and borrowed seed. What is certain, however, is that, with few exceptions, the money was honestly spent and not wasted on food or drink. No better proof of this can be had than the fact that throughout the Chhindwara Tahsil the area sown with kharif crops exceeded that sown in the previous year, which in its turn exceeded that of the year before. Over the greater part of the Jagirs the area sown is reported to be $\frac{1}{3}$ of the normal—a result which could never have been attained without the aid of the Charitable Fund. To ensure the proper application of the money, the Tahsildars and Circle Inspectors were asked to make careful enquiries, and in one instance, it was found necessary to recover the money, and place it in the hands of the *mukaddam* with orders that it was not to be made over to the tenants till they had prepared their lands for sowing. This, however, is a solitary instance, and on the whole nothing was more striking than the importance which the Gond cultivators appeared to attach to grants of what at first sight seemed almost inadequate sums for seed-grain. It seems that even a small sum of money in the hands of a tenant, who really intended to apply it to cultivating his land, gave him a borrowing power which he would not otherwise have possessed, and enabled him to supplement it by a loan of seed-grain, which he could not have obtained without this assistance. The manner in which the grants were made rendered mis-appropriation by *patwaris* and village-servants almost impossible, and only two complaints of such mal-practices were received which on enquiry were found to have any foundation in fact. In these cases a prosecution was ordered and it is pending. In addition to the ordinary distribution, a special case was made of a village, which, besides suffering from failure of crops, had a destructive fire, which consumed the whole village including its slender stock of grain. This left the entire population homeless and utterly destitute. A special grant in addition to the usual seed-grain allowance was made to enable the tenants to rebuild their houses. The report concludes—

"We cannot close this report without expressing our high sense of gratitude to the many subscribers of the Relief Fund. To every one of them and the organizers of this noble charity, the District Committee beg to tender their heart-felt thanks. Had this fund not been organized and so liberally subscribed to, many thousands of peasant cultivators would have been ruined past redemption."

33. The affected portion may be divided into two parts, the hilly part and the plain. The former is a wild tract of country with pathless mountains, vast forests and deep rivers and not easily accessible. The inhabitants of this

Mandla—Mr. Balaji Gangadhar.

region are mostly aborigines, Gonds and Baigas. They yet retain many of the characteristics of savage people. The greater part of their lives is passed in wandering about the jungles in search of food, which consists mainly of wild fruits, roots and leaves. They cling to their forest homes with a passionate tenacity. They live a hand to mouth life, and when, owing to a bad season, their natural food-supply fails them, acute distress at once results. Mr. Sharp, the Famine Circle Officer of this tract, thus describes their condition :—

“Most of the emaciated stubbornly refused to leave their villages, even though I promised them gratuitous relief and that not in the form of cooked food, so distasteful to many, but of pice. But the sufferers sat on the ground as though glued to it, shook their heads and merely murmured ‘*na jaen*’ (won’t go). If pressed for a reason, they generally said they would not leave their houses; they would rather die there than live elsewhere. An old lady assured me that if she died at the relief work, there would be none to bury her. We felt half inclined to carry off these people by force, had we had a sufficient staff to accomplish it, but there was something pathetic in their love of home which tempered the impression of obstinacy.”

The plains are quite a different country. The inhabitants are less aboriginal in their type, the Gonds and Baigas being intermixed with a large Hindu element. The villages are more extensively cultivated, and the inhabitants rely more on the fruits of their own labour than on the spontaneous products of nature. But the people in these richer tracts, which are mostly *rabi* producing, have, it is said, suffered even more than those in the hills. The minor millets which are easily grown in the hills were not such a complete failure as the *rabi* crops, and as there was no jungle produce to fall back upon, the distress among these people has been very severe. Mr. Sharp thus speaks about them in one of his reports :—

“Though it is difficult fully to gauge the extent of the calamity in the wilder parts, it is highly probable that the distress is more acute, not only in appearance, but in reality, in the more highly cultivated area. For in the jungle regions the people are accustomed even in a year of plenty to subsist partially on jungle produce, and though this year their field crops have failed, the forest crop has been abundant. Here, on the other hand, the people look almost entirely to their fields to support them, and this year they have looked in vain.”

There was a strong staff of Government relief officers in this district, and it was through them that the work of distribution was mainly carried out. They held simultaneously imprests of Government money and also from the Charity Fund. In the course of their tours, as they inspected the relief works and the persons fed in kitchens and on village relief, they provided all those with clothes whom they found scantily clad. The officers of the Public Works Department did the same in the case of workers and their dependents. The Secretary himself supplied the needs of the poor-house in the matter of clothes and extra meals. This latter consisted of wheat flour and *gur* in some cases, and in others of rice flour or sago with sugar and milk. This extra meal did great good to the recipients and accelerated their convalescence. Some of the clothes received from England were distributed among *parda* women in the Mandla town. The rest of the respectable poor were supplied with clothes purchased in the local bazars. The majority of these belonged to the trading classes, who, though in great distress, out of shame, never came forward with an application for relief. With the aid of some of the municipal members, the Secretary came across several such persons who had shut themselves up in their houses in a semi-nude condition. Their gratitude towards the subscribers, out of whose funds they were relieved, was the more valuable as it was expressed more in tears than in words. Many such families were also given a monthly allowance. Those who could earn something by doing needle work or by grinding corn, etc., were paid only so much as their earnings fell short of what was needed for a bare subsistence. Aid was also given to many artisans, such as weavers, oil-extractors, brass utensil makers, for which Mandla is famous, who, after consuming their capital, were reduced to the status of coolies and had gone to work on relief works. Money gifts were made to them, to enable them to resume their own business. The Secretary has satisfied himself that the money thus given has in most cases been rightly spent in replenishing the stock-in-trade. The receipt of 526 maunds of American grain in the beginning of September was very opportune, as that was just the time when the cultivators felt pinched for want of food. It was distributed in the Mandla

35. The whole district lies on the Satpuras and stretches right across the range from the north to the south. The northern and western part is very hilly and covered with forest, in which the Gonds and Korkus cultivate the best of the valleys and slopes. They constitute more than a third of the population.

By far the greater part of the expenditure under the first two objects has been on clothing and blankets, the want of which was keenly felt in all the Government relief institutions. A bale of clothing sent from England was received in June last, but as the garments it contained were valuable and unsuited to those for whom they were intended, it had to be sold by public auction. Coarse country cloth was purchased from the sale-proceeds, and garments generally in use amongst the poor made therewith and distributed in the Poor-House and the Relief Kitchens. Another bale of like material was received later on, and a portion of the contents had to be auctioned, and the proceeds utilized in purchase of *khadi* cloth and blankets in view of the approaching cold weather.

Of the 36 bottles of Mellin's food and 20 tins of Triticine received, some were used for the infirm and the sick in the Poor-House and some in the hospitals attached to the relief-work camps.

The payment of money doles to respectable persons and *parda-nashin* women was commenced from the 1st April in two of the principal towns, and gradually extended as the distress widened to other towns and to villages. Every possible care was taken to prevent over-lapping of Government and Charity Fund Relief. The list of persons submitted by the Sub-Committees were scrutinized by the District Committee, and a large number of persons who were either entitled to relief from Government or not at all were struck off. The Sub-Committees were given advances enough to cover two weeks' expenditure. The rates of dole ranged between one anna to five annas a day. The procedure of making payments in the municipal towns and in the villages differed slightly. Ordinarily, persons were required to come to the Municipal Office, and the Secretary made the payment, but in special cases on the ground of physical incapacity, old age or sickness, the ward member undertook to make payment to them at their homes. In the villages the Presidents of the Sub-Committees almost invariably gave the money personally. By far the largest amount was spent under Object IV. The relief went far to meet the needs of the peasantry. A large amount of *tacavi* was given by Government to persons who could give security, and relief from the Fund was confined to those only who had no credit or resources left. The lists prepared by the Sub-Committees were far too large and they had to be cut down, the names only of those cultivators being kept whose lands lay fallow wholly or largely last year, who had no bullocks and who were destitute of all resources. Even to these, the seed-grain money given was for a certain area, as the object was to help as many persons as possible. In many cases the grants were for seed-grain and plough bullocks together, the average price of a bullock having been fixed at Rs 10. All sums were paid to the recipients personally by the distributing officers.

36. Ninety-seven per cent. of the expenditure is under Object IV. This large sum was spent in giving grants to the agriculturists for *kharif* and *rabi*. Both the distributions were conducted by the Deputy Commissioner through his District relief staff, assisted by the members of the Committee. The total number of tenants in the District is 57,794, and over a third of them received aid from the Fund. The Secretary says:—

"It is only those who have been at work in the relief of distress, through the terrible time from which we have now happily emerged, can appreciate the condition 12 months ago of those they now see around them in a fairly prosperous condition, and are in a position to realize the sum-total of misery which has been relieved, and ruin which has been averted, through the help of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. One only wishes that it had been possible for the generous subscribers to see with their own eyes the results of their liberality."

37. The agriculturists and those depending on agriculture number about two-thirds of the population. Next after them come the weavers, of whom there are no less than 90,000. These people were thrown out of employment, as there was no demand for the cloth they generally manufacture, and they suffered the greatest privations as they could not fully avail themselves of the relief works, not being used to hard labour. It is an old custom here for the cultivators after having harvested their crops to migrate to the Borars where they earn better wages. During a year of drought they migrate in large numbers, but during the present year the exodus was exceptionally large. With the starting of Government measures of relief and those of the Charitable Fund, a stop was put to these migrations. Apart from the usual modes of relief, special measures were taken to help the distressed weavers by advancing them thread and money. In the town of Bhandara the Chairman was in charge of the operations, and in the District at centres of weaver population, the relief was given through Special Sub-Committees. Almost immediately after the formation of the Committee, this question of helping the weavers was taken in hand. In the month of April the relief was commenced by granting advances to 10 of the most destitute weavers of the town to repair and set up their looms in the *sarai*. Thread was lent to them, and the cloth made was purchased for the use of the Committee. In May the *sarai* was full of looms, and it was found necessary to extend the relief to weavers at their houses. In May and June there were 105 looms engaged in weaving cloth at Bhandara, Powni, Mohali and Andhalgaon. The relief under Object III was given through a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee for some time met every Wednesday to pass the lists submitted by the members. These lists after being passed were brought on a permanent list, and then a list for each circle was made out and sent to each of the members of the circle with the money for distribution. After payment these lists formed the vouchers of payment. When the permanent list was completed the whole was handed over to the Rev. Dr. Sandilands, who issued tickets to the recipients, and each payment was noted on the tickets as well as on the list. After completion of the distribution for the month the lists were forwarded as vouchers of payment. Under head IV, out of 1,620 inhabited villages, relief reached 1,119 villages, or nearly two-thirds of the total number. The tenants most affected were those whose lands lay high and in unirrigated soil, and to each of these men was given one *bhandi* of inferior paddy besides the usual cash grant. This was sown in early rains and was cropped in September and the beginning of October. The price of seed-grain at the time of sowing began to rise fast, and it was therefore thought advisable to secure a certain quantity in advance, so that it might be available to the cultivators at the time of sowing. To secure this end advances were made to different landholders to supply the grain when required at rates agreed upon. The officers appointed to distribute relief to the different circles were furnished with the list of advances made to the different persons in these circles, and were instructed to realize the grain from them according to their agreements, and distribute it to the distressed cultivators. The total area cultivated with the aid of the Fund is about 13,118 acres.

38. "The first of our operations was the import into Behir of sufficient food to support the poorer agriculturists during the monsoon months, when the care of their fields would prevent them from earning a living on the Government relief works. When the first grant of Rs60,000 was received, the hot weather was already far advanced, and it was clear that there would be great difficulties in transporting the rice some 90 miles from the Railway, through extensive jungles and up steep hill sides on to the isolated Behir plateau. * * * I decided to attempt the task of arranging the import departmentally. Authorised by the Executive Committee, I made purchases at Gondia station, and organised a regular transport staff under my direct control. The results exceeded our most sanguine hopes. We imported altogether 8,723 maunds of Rangoon and Raipur rice, costing in all Rs44,927. Of this stock we were able to actually deliver in Behir before the monsoon broke 6,214 maunds. * * * The conveyance of the 6,000 maunds was no easy task. Carts were with difficulty procured. The cartmen feared to enter that much dreaded plateau, especially as there was a good deal of cholera along the road. Three of our first batch of 63 cartmen died of cholera during the trip. The grant of small gratuities to the widows and orphans of the deceased induced some of the men to make a further trip. Fear of losing their bullocks from scarcity of fodder and water

Balaghat—Mr. A. Mayne, I.C.S.,
Chairman.

en route deterred many hungry tenants from earning a living by joining the transport train. It needed much persuasion to get the men to go. Besides carts, camels were used and packs of Bijnara bullocks brought down from Pehir, and from the Chhindwara and Raipur districts. The trouble was amply repaid, for we saved Rs13,863 by the departmental management. The cheapest offer we had had was at Rs36 a *khandi* (of 5 maunds) delivered at Behir and at Rs28 at Balaghat. To purchase 6,214 and 2,509 maunds delivered at Behir and Balaghat, respectively, would have cost Rs58,791 instead of our actual total expenditure of Rs44,927.

* * * * * At the same time as this import of food-grain for the plateau was going on, we distributed to the tenants of the low lands the sum of Rs1,59,584 in small sums, Rs1,02,856 for food and Rs56,628 for the purchase of seed, and Rs6,454 were given out in the Behir Tahsil for the purchase of bullocks. Careful enquiries were made into the condition of each tenant, and great care was taken that all the sums should be paid straight away by the distributing officer to prevent the chance of speculation by subordinate officials. Of the 2,509 maunds of Rangoon rice left at Balaghat, we sold 830 maunds at a profit of Rs134-6, after deducting all expenses. The balance, 1,679 maunds, was used to stock a cheap grain shop opened for the sale at cost price to all persons who were getting less than five rupees per head, and at the reduced rate of ten seers to the rupee to all who were getting less than three rupees per head. The rice was sold for Rs6,297, the transaction costing the Fund Rs1,677. The cheap grain shop was a great boon to the poorest of the inhabitants of Balaghat, and coupled with our putting on the local market our surplus stock of 830 maunds of rice, helped materially to keep down prices during the monsoon months. The import of so much food-grain into Behir also helped to keep prices steadier there, which the distribution of money there would have failed to do; 698 articles of clothing were received from England: of these, 216 were distributed and 482, being of too fine a nature to be worn by the poor of these parts, were sold for Rs200. The proceeds were used to purchase 130 *saris* woven locally of strong, coarse country cloth, and these were distributed instead. Our next large operation was the purchase and distribution of *rabi* seed. This district was extraordinarily destitute of *rabi* seed, as the greater part of its *rabi* area had been fallow for the past two years. Some kinds of seed could not be procured anywhere of the right quality and to an adequate amount, and we were obliged to obtain the best substitutes we could. Any local purchase by us of the small stocks of seed left with the few well-to-do *malguzars* and *sowcars* would not have increased the area sown, and so it was decided to import all seed from other districts. As some of our agriculturists, who had money, resorted to the Railway stations in the Bhandara District to make purchases, I decided to avoid buying so near home for fear of increasing the local demand for seed-grain, the supply at Gondia, Tumsar, etc., being quite inadequate. The stocks at Raipur, Rajnandgaon and Dongargarh were rapidly exhausted, and as the rainy season was on, could not be replenished from the country round there. It was then necessary to send as far as Calcutta and Bhagulpore to obtain grain at anything like a reasonable price. *Urad*, *lakhori* and linseed were distributed at the time of "*utara*" sowing, it being the practice in this district to scatter these three kinds of grains broadcast among the standing rice. A second distribution of wheat gram and linseed was made a few weeks later, when the time for sowing with the plough arrived. Some *sarson* (mustard) seed was purchased and sent to Behir, where it is in great demand. Wheat was bought by the Tahsildar in Behir from *Banjars* who brought it through the rugged mountain country from the Raipur plains. Altogether 6,843 *khandis* of *rabi* seed were purchased at a cost of Rs1,03,318, which, with railway freight and all other expenses, came to Rs1,14,524. The transport of all this grain at a time when agricultural operations were in full swing was a task of great difficulty. Much of the stuff had to be carted 27 miles to Balaghat, with two unbridged rivers in flood to be crossed. Seven hundred and forty-eight *khandis* were transported to Behir across a number of mountain torrents where there were no proper ferry arrangements. * * * * * Altogether 30 or 40 thousand acres have been sown with the seed distributed by the Charitable Fund. Out of a normal *rabi* area of nearly two lakhs of acres this extent of country forms no mean portion, and the distress which will still exist here next hot weather will be immensely less than it would have been in the absence of this generous gift. During a short tour I recently made, I devoted special attention to the use which had been made of the money and seed given by the Charitable Fund. I found very few cases in which the recipients of the bounty had not substantially bettered their position by utilising the capital thus given them. Two or three thriftless persons, demoralised by previous sufferings, had simply sat at home eating up the subsistence money and were now again destitute, but such cases were very rare. Some others had only sown a few handfuls of rice and were in hardly any better plight; but the great majority of the small tenants, though they had not sown nearly their full area, had been saved from a further year of famine by the large grant from the Charitable Fund. The subsistence money prevented much of the Government *tacavi* seed being eaten up. This and the grant of such large quantities of seed have, in my opinion, done more for the people than any other measure of Famine relief. I could find no cases of speculation by subordinates, the distribution having been almost entirely kept in the hands of responsible officials, and in all cases carefully supervised. * * * * * On the whole the seed grain procured was of satisfactory quality. Its price was most reasonable, far below any rates which I could get tendered by Nagpur firms for delivery at Gondia. After all the expenses of carriage had been allowed for, we effected a substantial saving of nearer fifteen than ten thousand rupees on the cost which would have been incurred, had I given contracts to any firms to deliver to me at the stations on the Railway line nearest to Balaghat, while no firm would have

thought of taking a contract for the delivery at either Baihar or Balaghat itself, so great are the difficulties of transport in the rainy season.

I may here mention that when I was making extensive purchases in Jubbulpore, it occurred to me to apply for a special reduced rate of freight for the large consignment of grain being despatched to Gondia and adjacent stations. The management of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company have kindly conceded a special rate of six annas per maund on all the consignments over their line, thus reducing their charges from 2,915 to 1,391 rupees.*

The Committee has had little work to do among *purda-nashin* women and destitute people of the respectable classes, since persons of such a class are very few in this district. Rupees 127 were distributed as allowances to *purda-nashin* women, and over Rs. 4,000 worth of clothes were given to respectable persons in need of such. The expenditure under this head was small, as much as was also given from a private fund upon in England by Mrs. Mayne which brought in Rs. 7,500 in all. Besides this, Rs. 435 worth of blankets and clothes have been and are being distributed. The work of closing the Saongi Relief Camp now in progress is being greatly facilitated by an advance of Rs. 2,000 to establish weavers who are unable to betake themselves to their former occupation without money for subsistence and for the purchase of thread."

39. The following brief account of work done by the Roman Catholic Mission, Nagpur, which received help from the Fund in various ways, has been furnished to us:—

"At the end of September 1896, the Bishop of the Diocese appointed 3 priests and 10 nuns to the sole or special duty of distributing alms to the starving, medicine and food to the sick and dying, of affording shelter and a daily pittance in the Mission Poor-Asylum to the most destitute, and of collecting and rescuing abandoned children. In the beginning of July last, when it was anticipated that besides starvation, cholera and other epidemics would have many victims, the Lady Superior of St. Joseph's Convent offered her services and those of her whole community to visit the Railway stations and neighbouring villages between Nagpur and Bilaspur, with a view of relieving the famine-stricken and attending the sick. Thus part of the Districts of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Bilaspur and Raipur, of the Native States of Raj-Nandgaon and Khairagarh, and the railway lines between Jubbulpore and Nagpur, as also between Jubbulpore and Harda, have been periodically and regularly visited by the nuns or the priests. Leaving aside the ordinary alms doled out to the hungry, of which no record has been kept, over 400 people have been rescued and brought to the Poor-Asylum, 170 of whom are still there under the care of the Catechist Sisters of Mary Immaculate. Of the others, a part have died, a part have gone back to their villages, a part have been transferred elsewhere. The abandoned children collected are not less than 500 or 600. The Mission has also informed the Deputy Commissioners and the authorities of the Native States of its readiness to accept 200 unclaimed children from Narsinghpur, 150 from Jubbulpore, 300 from Bilaspur, 200 from Raj-Nandgaon, 200 from Khairagarh and Dongargarh. Up to date 150 have been received from Khairagarh and Dongargarh, and 92 girls are on their way to Nagpur from Narsinghpur. By the middle of January, we shall most likely have 1,200 children under our care.

The agricultural settlement at the village of Tanna is progressing favourably and holds out very fair prospects. The temporary village formed of fifteen famine-stricken families promises to become a permanent settlement. None of these families has asked to leave, but all have rather expressed the desire of settling in the place, provided fields are granted to them for cultivation. The orphanages number at present over 200 children, *viz.*, 130 boys and about 70 girls. Almost each week, as soon as accommodation is ready, detachments of 25 to 30 children are taken there. We hope to find work for about 600 children and to settle them in the village after their marriage."

40. This report will not be complete without an acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by the District Committees. Their strain of labour and anxiety to see that the money so generously given be properly spent has been great; and they are entitled to our cordial thanks for the zeal and devotion with which they have performed their self-imposed and arduous task. While laying down the general principles, the Central Committee as also the Provincial Executive Committee left the execution in detail of the plan of operations to be followed in distributing relief to the Local Committees; and thanks to the active help, sympathy and co-operation of Government and its officers, the results attained may, on the whole, be pronounced eminently satisfactory. Lists of members who have been conspicuous by their good work have been sent by most of the Committees with, however, one notable omission. The names of the Honorary Secretaries find no place in them. With this omission supplied, a consolidated list is annexed to this report.

* The Executive Committee beg to tender their best thanks to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities for this generous concession.

41. The good the Fund has done is simply incalculable. It has proved the salvation of thousands; and it is impossible for those whose privilege it has been to take part in this blessed work of charity, not to acknowledge with the deepest thankfulness the immense benefit it has conferred on the country and the most welcome relief it has carried to many a destitute and starving home. One hundred and thirty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty-three people sunk in the lowest depths of poverty and privation, who came clothed in dirty rags to the Poor-Houses and Relief-works, have received a *dhoti* or a *sari* or a blanket, each to cover their nakedness; 115,784 more have imbibed health and strength from the extra comforts given. The lives of 4,260 orphan children have been made cheerful by the aid given to the institutions which sheltered these poor waifs and strays of the famine. Thirty-five thousand three hundred and eighty-nine persons of the class contemplated by the third object of the Fund have received periodical allowances which have enabled them to live through these hard times. To 23,693 more have been given wholesome food-grains at cheap rates. Above all, no less than 324,424 tenants have been placed in a position to resume the cultivation of their lands, which but for the timely help from the Fund would now be lapsing into waste and be covered with noxious weeds. These figures are eloquent alike of the magnitude as of the far-reaching beneficial effects of this magnificent Charity Fund. Unprecedented then as has been the magnitude of the calamity, equally unprecedented have been the manifestations of sympathy and good will it has evoked all over the world. In the midst of returning prosperity, its horrors and miseries will, as we all hope, soon fade out of memory; but the kindly remembrance of the heroic efforts that were put forth and the devotion and self-sacrifice that were shown to repair its terrible havoc while it lasted, and of this splendid exhibition of humanity and charity, will remain indelibly impressed on the minds of the people.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,

Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee,

Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Central Provinces Branch.

NAGPUR;
23rd December 1897. }

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES WHO HAVE DONE GOOD WORK.

District Committee, Nagpur.

1. Mr. E. R. K. Blenkinsop, I.C.S.
2. Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishna Bose, C.I.E.
3. Rao Bahadur Bhargav Rao Gadgil.
4. Rao Bahadur Bapoo Rao Dada.
5. Revd. John Douglas.
6. Mr. Bulwant Rao Gadgil.
7. Mr. Govind Rao Madhava Phate.
8. Mr. Keshava Rao Joshi.
9. Mr. Khande Rao, Tehsildar.
10. Seth Chhobmal.
11. Seth Lakhmichand.
12. Mr. Amrit Rao Dighe,
13. Mr. Krishna Rao Despande, } Honorary Secretaries.
14. Khansabeh Amirkhan.

District Committee, Wardha.

1. Mr. Bach Raj Seth.
2. Mr. Iswar Das Seth.
3. Mr. Kashinath Rao Thakur, Civil Judge.
4. Mr. Mahomed Amir, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.
5. Mr. Hari Waman Kelkar, Pleader.
6. Mr. Damodar Pant Khare, Pleader.
7. Mr. Keshao Rao Kaoli, Pleader.
8. Mr. Govind Rao, Hospital Assistant.
9. Mr. Anaud Rao, Malguzar of Boregaon.
10. Mr. Krishna Rao Deshmukh, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Balaghat.

1. Seth Lakhmichand of Katangi.
2. Mr. M. M. Mullna, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Raipur.

1. Rai Bahadur Bhutnath De.
2. Revd. T. Gass.
3. Mr. H. S. Gaur, Barrister-at-Law, Joint Secretary.
4. Mr. G. D. Oswell, Honorary Secretary.
5. Mr. Blunt.
6. Mr. Kapurehand, Honorary Treasurer.

District Committee, Bilaspur.

1. Mr. F. Low, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner.
2. Mr. N. N. De, Barrister-at-Law, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Saugor.

1. Rai Bahadur Lala Nand Kishore.
2. Rao Sahab Vyankat Rao.
3. Munshi Mahomed Azimulla Khan.
4. Babu Kali Prasanna Mukarji, Pleader.
5. Pandit Kashinath Rao, Pleader, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Damoh.

1. Revd. J. G. McGavren, Honorary Secretary.
2. Surgeon-Capt. T. W. Quinn, Civil Surgeon.
3. Mr. Raghunath Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.
4. Mr. Chintaman Rao, Tehsildar.
5. Khan Bahadur Imdad Ali, Pleader.
6. Mr. Damodar Rao Shrikhande, Pleader.
7. Pandit Deo Shankar, Honorary Magistrate.
8. Pandit Durga Shankar Mehta, Honorary Magistrate.
9. Pandit Durga Shankar, Retired Tehsildar.

District Committee, Mandla.

1. Mr. Sharp.
2. Pandit Shankar Prasad.
3. Seth Ghashiram.
4. Mr. Balaji Gangadhar, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Seoni.

1. Khan Saheb Cowasji.
2. Mir Sayad Roza.
3. Mr. Dadu Gulabsingh.
4. Mr. Gowri Shankar Bhargava, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Hoshangabad.

1. Mr. P. M. Greany, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, Harda.
2. Mr. Jairam Ganesh, Tehsildar, Hoshangabad.
3. Mr. Ahmed Reza Khan, Tehsildar, Sohagpur.
4. Mr. Moreswar Atmaram, Tehsildar, Seoni, Malwa.
5. Mr. Jadonath Datta, Joint Secretary.
6. Rai Bahadur Kalidas Chowdhary, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Chhindwara.

1. Revd. H. G. Davidson.
2. Mr. R. H. Ryves, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.
3. Mr. Mathura Prasad, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Nimar.

1. Seth Motiram Mohanlal.
2. Babu Haridas Chatterjee, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Bhandara.

1. Mr. Ramkrishna Rao, Civil Judge, Honorary Secretary.
2. Rao Saheb Rang Rao, Pleader, President.
3. Mr. H. M. Brigstoke, Deputy Commissioner.
4. Mr. R. H. Napier, Settlement Officer.
5. Dr. J. Prentie, Civil Surgeon.
6. Revd. Dr. Sandilands, F. C. Missionary.
7. Mr. Sheorajsiugh, Honorary Magistrate.
8. Mr. Abdul Kadar, Malguzar.
9. Mr. Venkat Rao, Naik of Dongargaon.

District Committee, Chanda.

1. Mr. Rambhao Bobde, Honorary Secretary.
2. Mr. Chandi Patel.
3. The Revd. Israel Jacob.
4. Mr. Ahmad Khan, Honorary Magistrate.
5. Mr. Mehdi Hasan, Civil Judge, President.

District Committee, Narsingpur.

1. Pandit Narayan Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.
2. Mr. Sadasheo Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, Honorary Secretary.
3. Munshi Habibulla, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.
4. Munshi Sundarlal, Tehsildar.
5. Pandit Raghunath Rao, Tehsildar.
6. Babu Nritya Gopal Bose, Pleader.
7. Revd. J. O. Denuings.
8. Babu Kunj Behari Gupta.
9. Babu Ambica Charan De.

District Committee, Betul.

1. Revd. P. Carlou of Badnur.
2. Mr. Vithal Rao Deshmukh.
3. Munshi Syed Abdul Hafiz, Honorary Secretary.

District Committee, Jabalpur.

1. R. B. Ballabh Dass.
2. R. B. Behari Lall.
3. K. B. Ali Ahmed Khau.
4. Mr. Rustumji.
5. Surgeon Lt.-Col. H. K. McKay, Civil Surgeon.
6. Mr. Afzul Raheem, Tahsildar of Jabalpur.
7. Brigade-Surgeon Lt.-Col. Cullen, M. D., Honorary Secretary.

BHARGAW RAO,

Honorary Secretary, Central Provinces Branch.

FORM B.

FORM

CENTRAL

Statement showing details of relief operations from

Number of persons relieved

	Nagpur.	Bhandara.	Chanda.	Wardha.	Balaghat.	Rajpur.	Bilaspur.
OBJECT I.							
A.—Clothing, blankets, etc., to persons in receipt of Government relief, whether in poorhouses, kitchens, or outside.							
(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given :—							
(a) the articles being sent from England . . . . .	...	60	..	...	521	1,380	100
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee . . . . .	...	...	...	...	146	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	4,752	5,893	...	867	6,437	27,111	8,335
Total number of persons	4,752	5,953	...	867	7,107	28,521	8,435
(1) expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (c) above . R	3,116 5 0	3,411 4 5	...	403 7 0	4,701 5 0	2,417 11 0	6,570 5 9
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	3,110 5 0	2,685 0 0	...	315 12 0	2,093 13 0	790 12 0	3,500 0 0
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers . . . . .	...	745 11 5	...	75 5 0	...	627 2 0	3,070 5 9
(4) how much in buying from large cloth-dealers . . . . .	...	100 0 0	...	14 0 0	2,003 8 0	1,100 0 0	...
(ii) number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
B.—Other expenditure in poorhouses or kitchens.							
(i) maintaining poorhouses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them :—							
(a) amount spent in building and furnishing poorhouses or kitchen R	610 15 11	205 11 4	...	02 0 3	...	...	...
(b) establishment charges	504 15 3	154 13 13	...	33 10 0	..	...	...
(c) conveying paupers to poorhouses . . . . .	...	27 0 0	...	151 12 3	...	...	...
(d) rations and comforts (Medicines)	7,561 4 4	1,593 7 8	...	273 1 3	...	...	...
(e) other expenditure (with details)	360 5 0	163 11 10	...	22 4 0	...	...	...
Purchase of cloth for inmates	730 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Utensils	260 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sending paupers to their own districts	101 4 6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	334 2 2	...	...	...	1,413 3 1	...	...
TOTAL UNDER B R	10,541 11 11	2,413 11 113	...	515 5 3	1,413 2 1	...	...
(1) length of time during which poorhouse and kitchen was open	1st November 1896 to 31st March 1897,	3 months, 17 days.	...	2 months, 4 days.	...	...	...
(2) total number of persons who came to the poorhouse and kitchen	1,09,832	2,310	...	300	...	...	...
(3) highest number in poorhouse and kitchen on any one day	2,000	372	...	120	...	...	...
(4) average daily number of inmates	673	213.27	...	75	...	...	...
(ii) provision of "comforts" in Government poorhouses—							
(a) cost of milk-supply	231 10 0	65 9 0	...	...	...	...	...
(b) purchase of lime juice and other comforts . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) money distributed for purchase of additional food . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1,825 3 1	...
(d) other expenditure (with details)	959 7 3	228 3 0	...	25 0 0	...	...	...
TOTAL	1,188 1 3	293 12 0	...	25 0 0	...	1,825 3 1	...
Object I, carried over	14,846 2 2	6,153 12 41	...	975 12 3	0,114 7 1	4,243 1 1	6,570 5 8

	Nagpur.	Bhandara.	Chanda.	Wardha.	Balaghat.	Raipur.	Bilaspur.
Object I, brought forward R	14,843 2 2	6,153 12 4	...	975 12 3	6,114 7 1	4,243 1 1	6,670 5 9
(1) length of time during which comforts were provided . . .	15th April to 31st Oct. 1897.	...	...	1 month, 4 days.	...	...	...
(2) total number of persons who were provided with comforts . .	251	...	...	671	...	10,922	...
(3) average daily number supplied—							
A with milk	22	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ children							
{ others	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
B with other comforts	221	...	...	25	...	...	...
C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poorhouses.							
(ii) <i>Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief—</i>							
(a) Total amount so expended . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(iii) <i>providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works—</i>							
(a) Total amount so expended . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	236 11 1	...
(b) Period during which it was expended . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Average number for each day—							
A children . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1,885	...
B aged persons . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1,256	...
C infirm persons . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	751	...
(a) Period of expenditure . . . . .	...	...	...	1 day.	...	...	...
(b) Amount of „ . . . . .	...	...	29 12 8	3 0 0	...	...	...
(c) Number of persons relieved . . . . .	...	...	20	6	...	...	...
D.—Other relief under heading "Object I,"—such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief Works or to their own villages. Grants made to poor people out of relief officers' imprests.							
TOTALS UNDER OBJECT I R	14,843 2 2	6,153 12 4	29 12 8	978 12 3	6,114 7 1	4,479 12 2	6,670 5 9
OBJECT II.—ORPHANS.							
(i) <i>expenditure during the famine:—</i>							
Nature of expenditure—							
Subsidies to Orphanages R	...	799 12 11	...	...	...	...	3 months. 650 0 0
Construction of Orphanages . . . . .	...	97	...	...	...	...	30
Maintenance of orphans in Fund Orphanages R	...	30 0 6	...	...	...	...	...
Conveyance of orphans to their homes . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Education of orphans R	...	25 0 0	...	...	...	101 6 2	...
Miscellaneous . . . . .	...	17 7 0	...	...	...	320	...
TOTAL R	...	871 4 5	...	...	...	301 14 2	650 0 0
(ii) <i>number of orphans to whom clothes were given—</i>							
(a) the articles being sent from England— . . . . .	...	953	...	...	...	320	...
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee— . . . . .	...	148	...	...	...	...	...
(c) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee— . . . . .	...	79	...	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committee or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee— . . . . .	...	726	...	...	...	...	...
(d) other expenditure specially on orphans clothing R	...	367 2 0	...	...	...	...	...
(iii) <i>relief after the famine—</i>							
number of orphans already provided for— . . . . .	...	139	...	...	...	(estimated) 300	...
TOTALS UNDER OBJECT II R	...	1,239 6 5	...	...	...	301 14 2	60

Jabalpur.	Sangor.	Damoh.	Mandla.	Seoni.	Hoshangabad.	Chhindwara.	Narsingpur.	Betul.	Nimar.	Chhattisgarh Pondatory States.	TOTAL.
11,513 5 2	7,638 11 3	5,718 0 0	7,304 2 7	4,406 6 6	7,035 7 10	11,175 0 9	912 3 6	2,988 12 0	1,087 7 9	...	93,768 2 3
...	91 days	...	180 days	About 4 months.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
95,160	4,121	...	2,439	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	631	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,13,570
...
...
...	2,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,169
...
...	...	25 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 0 0
5,838 9 0	340 1 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3 months. 100	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,515 63
...
...
...
...
...	2 months.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	15 9 0 100	...	...	...	...	...	261 0 9 521	...	309 6 5 617
17,491 14 8	7,638 11 3	5,738 0 0	7,409 11 7	4,836 8 4	7,035 7 10	11,175 0 9	912 3 0	2,988 12 0	1,328 8 0	...	1,05,615 14 11
5,252 0 0	May to Sept. 1,762 0 0	...	...	...	...
2,626	891	...	...	...	3,614
...
...
...
...
...	15 12 8 99	...	...	...	...	...
...	49 3 3	...	...	...	...	...
5,252 0 0	64 15 11	1,782 0 0	...	150 0 0	...	9,072 2 6
...	1,273
...
...
...
...
...
167	367 2 0
...	60
5,252 0 0	64 15 11	1,782 0 0	...	150 0 0	...	9,430 4 6

OBJECT III.

A.—Supply of clothing to respectable poor, not in receipt of Government relief.

(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing were given—

- (a) the articles being sent from England
 (b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee
 (c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee

Total number of persons

- (1) expenditure incurred under (c) above R
 (2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers . . .
 (3) how much from petty shop-keepers
 (4) how much from large cloth-dealers

(ii) number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing and amount so given

B.—Provision of work to respectable poor (other than that shown under heading "Object IV" below, as provided for professional workmen).

(i) work given out, to be returned to the Committee—

- (a) number of people supplied with materials
 (b) cost of materials R
 (c) quantity of finished product returned by them
 (d) amount paid for their labour R

C.—Grain or cooked food, doles to respectable poor—

- (i) period during which this relief was given
 (ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles .
 (iii) rates of the doles
 (iv) at what intervals given
 (v) amount expended R

D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food—

- (i) period during which this relief was given
 (ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles .
 (iii) rates of the doles
 (iv) at what intervals given
 (v) amount expended R

D.—Money doles to respectable poor in Wodhana—

- (i) period during which this relief was given
 (ii) number of persons in receipt of doles
 (iii) rate and interval of the doles
 (iv) amount expended R

Object III, carried over

	Nagpur.	Bhaudara.	Chanda.	Wardha.	Balaghat.	Raipur.	Bilaspur.
(a) the articles being sent from England	102	...	...	171	...	...
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee	49	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	452	...	366	3,565	...	...
Total number of persons	554	...	366	3,788	...	...
(1) expenditure incurred under (c) above R	...	317 0 0	...	100 0 0	4,203 3 1	...	...
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	317 0 0	...	58 7 0	3,331 11 1	...	...
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers	31 0 0	...	...	...
(4) how much from large cloth-dealers	5 0 0	563 8 0	...	...
(ii) number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing and amount so given	2 0 0 Sowing charge	...	...	...
(a) number of people supplied with materials	35	...	...	...	...	...
(b) cost of materials R	...	3 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
(c) quantity of finished product returned by them	1,079 Kudtas.	...	...	...	...	...
(d) amount paid for their labour R	...	49 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
(i) period during which this relief was given	51 days	...	...	...
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles	655	...	...	...
(iii) rates of the doles	12½ tolas	...	...	...
(iv) at what intervals given	Daily	...	...	...
(v) amount expended R	738 11 3	...	...	...
(i) period during which this relief was given	16th April 1897 to 31st October 1897.	7 months	...	5 months	...	15th March 1897 to 31st October 1897.	5 months
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles .	567	10,339	...	25	...	527 (monthly)	251
(iii) rates of the doles	Monthly. 1 8 0 1 0 0 0 8 0	Monthly. 2 0 0 2 4 0 2 8 0 Woman— 1 12 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 Child— 1 4 0 1 8 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 cto.	...	2 0 0	...	0 8 0 to 2 8 0	Monthly 2 0 0 to 2 8 0
(iv) at what intervals given	Monthly.	...	...	...
(v) amount expended R	7,104 12 0	10,110 7 4	...	250 0 0	...	5,432 14 0	633 4 0
(i) period during which this relief was given	2 months 1 day. 15	...	...	...
(ii) number of persons in receipt of doles
(iii) rate and interval of the doles	2 0 0 monthly. 61 7 0	...	...	...
(iv) amount expended R
Object III, carried over	7,104 12 0	10,471 7 10	...	1,150 3 0	4,203 3 1	5,432 14 0	633 4 0

Jabalpur.	Saugor.	Damoh.	Mandla.	Seoni.	Hoshangabad.	Ghindhara.	Narsingpur.	Deol.	Nimar.	Chhattisgarh Feudatory States.	TOTAL.
...	467	...	19	113	265	101	167	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	236	1,262	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	467	236	1,281	113	265	101	167	...	...	..	7,338
...	...	189 8 0	833 3 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,613 4 4
...
...	...	189 8 0	833 3 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	172 160 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160 8 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 10 6
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 0 0
...
...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	738 11 3
...	7 months	...	4'7	7 and 6 months.	6 months	6 months	April to October.	1st April 1897 to 31st October.	6 months	...	...
12,476	78	...	128	118	538	2,425	1,781	128	229	...	...
...	5 4 0 monthly.	...	1 0 0 to 5 8 0 monthly.	2 0 0 monthly.	0 12 0 to 3 0 0 monthly.	...	1 4 0 to 2 8 0	0 1 0 to 0 5 0 a day Weekly.	2 4 0 Monthly.	...	...
...
29,209 0 3	1,777 10 0	...	1,275 0 0	1,655 8 0	8,041 15 6	3,680 0 0	3,318 8 3	1,855 5 6	1,097 1 0	..	78,161 7 0
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61 7 0
20,209 0 3	1,777 10 0	350 0 0	2,108 12 8	1,655 8 0	8,041 15 6	3,680 0 0	3,318 8 3	1,855 5 6	1,097 1 0	...	82,832 1 7

	Nagpur.	Dhandara.	Chanda.	Wardha.	Balghat.	Balpur.	Bilaspur.
Object III, brought forward R	7,104 12 0	10,471 7 10	...	1,160 3 0	4,203 3 1	5,432 14 0	633 4 0
E.—Cheap grain shops—							
(1) Number of grain shops	3	...	5	...	1	1	...
(2) Period during which relief was given	15th April 1897 to 31st October 1897	...	15th August 1897 to 31st October 1897	...	3 months	23rd May 1897 to 15th October 1897	...
(3) Net amount expended from the Fund during that period R	13,830 0 8	...	1,458 12 1	...	1,077 0 0	4,804 12 7	...
(4) Excess of privileged rate over market rate (in seers or lbs. per rupee)	1½, 1, ½ seers	...	...	...	...	6 pounds	...
(5) Average number of persons relieved during each month of the period—							
April and May	5,865	}	1,332	...	...	400	...
June	5,450						
July	5,911						
August	5,070						
September	5,332						
October	5,332						
F.—Other relief under heading "Object III."							
Nature of expenditure.							
Doles of Mohwas to poor people	(a) Period of expenditure	...	...	1 month. 500 0 0 500	127 12 0	...	...
Money doles to poor people for work to be returned to the Committee.	(b) Amount of	...	...	21 days. 83 2 0 5½ 3 months. 0 0 0 2 591 2 0	...	...	...
Money doles to weavers for their maintenance.	(c) Number of persons relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS UNDER OBJECT III R	20,931 12 8	10,471 7 10	1,458 12 1	1,744 5 0	0,007 15 1	10,237 10 7	633 4 0
OBJECT IV.							
A.—Provision of employment to professional workmen.							
(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee—							
(a) nature of employments assisted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) number of people supplied with money or materials	...	200	...	...	...	3,342	...
(c) cost of materials (or money advances) R	...	2,143 14 6	...	...	...	865 4 0 19,785 0 0	...
(d) quantities of finished products returned by them	...	2,277 pieces	...	...	...	14,801 pieces	...
(e) amount paid for their labour R	...	1,035 8 0	...	...	...	...	...
(f) number of people who received money gifts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(g) amount of such gifts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B.—Assistance towards rebuilding or repairing of houses—							
(i) number of people assisted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) amount expended	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Object IV, carried over R	...	3,184 6 6	...	...	...	20,630 13 0	...

Jabalpur.	Saugor.	Damoh.	Mandla.	Soni.	Hoshangabad.	Chhindwara.	Narsingpur.	Betul.	Nimar.	Chhattisgarh Feudatory States.	TOTAL.
20,209 9 3	1,777 10 0	350 0 0	2,103 12 3	1,685 8 0	8,044 16 6	3,589 0 0	3,318 8 3	1,855 5 6	1,997 1 0	...	82,632 1 7
3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	15
...	June to October 1897	28 days	...	3 months and 12 days	...	...	...	...	...
7,762 4 0	5,634 12 0	280 8 0	...	1,860 0 2	...	...	...	...	37,3 8 11 9
...	3 sects	...	2 sects	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,079	1,669	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,102 11 9	...	200 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,430 7 9
...	...	2 plus laborers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...	594 2 0
29,074 0 0	1,777 10 0	550 0 0	7,743 8 3	1,600 0 6	8,044 16 6	5,449 9 2	3,318 8 3	1,855 5 6	1,997 1 0	...	1,22,165 7 1
...
...	3,512
...	22,779 11 6
...
...	1,035 8 0
...	303	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
...	2,422 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,422 0 0
...
...	16	...	...	...	...	16
...	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	500 0 0
...	2,422 0 0	...	...	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	20,803 3 6

	Nagpur.	Bhandara.	Chanda.	Wardha.	Balaghat.	Balpur.	Bilaspur.
Object IV, brought forward R	...	3,191 0 0	...	...	...	20,630 13 0	...
C.—Assistance where only MONEY grants have been given by provision of cattle, seed-grain, etc., to cultivators—							
(i) number of cultivators assisted—	...	9,215	1,751	2,718	11,232	45,957	21,315
(ii) (roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone	1,447	2,617	1	81	600	600	...
ditto ditto of seed-grain alone	1,528	3,225	1,735	2,507	3,775	28,375	307
ditto for fodder subsistence of cattle alone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ditto ditto cultivator and family alone	...	3,313	18	...	6,657	18,886	...
ditto wages to labourers alone	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
ditto for more than one of the above subjects	...	...	...	153	...	...	21,038
Note.—Each head of a family is only counted once even if his gift covers various items of expenditure.							
(iii) amount of gifts made R	62,002 8 0	63,782 8 0	12,616 0 0	20,633 12 0	1,65,933 0 0	2,35,832 0 5	1,50,637 5 1
(iv) (roughly) how much for purchase of cattle	31,331 8 0	30,003 8 0	41 0 0	1,620 11 0	6,454 0 0	12,133 1 11	...
ditto ditto seed-grain	28,571 0 0	11,615 4 0	12,533 0 0	118,051 1 0	50,623 0 0	1,51,251 7 10	10,000 0 0
ditto subsistence of cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ditto ditto cultivator and family	...	18,303 12 0	29 0 0	...	1,02,808 0 0	42,511 6 11	1,70,637 5 1
ditto wages to labourers	...	...	...	27 0 0	...	...	...
D.—Assistance to cultivators by grants IN KIND—							
(i) Cattle—							
(1) Number of cattle purchased	...	72	160	...	...	850	...
(2) Price of ditto R	...	952 0 0	1,031 8 0	...	...	...	...
(3) Number of cultivators assisted by grants or loans of cattle (estimated)	...	36	126	...	...	606	...
(ii) Seed—							
(i) Quantity of seed purchased	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) Price of ditto R	...	0,143 8 0	20,491 3 2	...	1,21,845 11 3	...	1,000 0 0
(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed	...	512	4,722	...	11,000	...	307
(iii) Fodder—							
(a) Total number of grants of fodder in kind made at reduced price	...	...	...	...	34,837 5 5*	...	...
	...	...	...	...	3,255†	...	...
E.—Loans recoverable—							
(a) To agriculturists—							
Amount	...	...	...	...	...	415 0 0	...
(b) To others—							
Amount	...	...	...	...	...	1,100 0 0	...
F.—Other expenditure under heading "Object IV":—							
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure. R s. p.	Number of persons relieved.				
Valedictory doles	...	...	...	...	...	613 0 0	...
Rehabilitation	...	...	...	...	...	8,119 10 5	...
Doles of Mohwas to destitute tenants	...	...	...	1 month. 1,500 0 0	...	...	...
				1,500			
TOTALS UNDER OBJECT IV R	62,003 8 0	1,04,065 6 0	35,218 11 5	22,133 12 0	3,25,621 3 11	2,60,819 8 1	1,81,637 5 4
OBJECT V.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
(a) Office and contingent expenditure	...	430 6 9	390 10 3	303 0 9	90 0 6	209 8 0	1,137 1 11
(b) Printing	...	63 13 6	...	...	15 13 0	...	227 10 0
TOTAL UNDER OBJECT V, MISCELLANEOUS R	493 3 3	390 10 3	393 0 9	105 13 6	209 8 0	1,364 11 11	300 8 0
GRAND TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS R	92,183 10 1	1,31,319 11 4†	37,102 4 11	21,907 9 9	3,37,953 2 1	2,83,203 8 11	1,89,647 7 7

* Price of seed purchased.

† Number of persons amongst whom distributed.

‡ The amount under this head is included in the sum total below.

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

Receipts.		Expenditure.		Amount.	
	R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.
1. OPENING BALANCE		1. UNDER OBJECTS I AND II (PART)		1,05,615 14 11	
2. REMITTANCES FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE		(a) Provincial Committee	557 2 9		
(a) From General Fund	32,66,260 0 0	(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 1)	1,05,058 12 2 (b)		
(b) "Far-marked" for the Province	865 2 0	TOTAL	1,05,615 14 11		
TOTAL	32,67,115 2 0				31,389 5 9
3. LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PROVINCE		2. UNDER OBJECT III			
(a) Collected directly by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee	3,756 10 3	(a) Provincial Committee	1,102 0 0		
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use		(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 2)	30,261 5 9		
(<i>vide</i> Form D, column 2)	72,105 5 4(a)	TOTAL	31,389 5 9		
TOTAL	75,891 15 7				1,22,165 7 1
4. OTHER RECEIPTS (MISCELLANEOUS).		3. UNDER OBJECT IV			
(a) Provincial Committee	152 4 3	(a) Provincial Committee	N77		
(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form D, column 4)	5,757 0 3	(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 3)	1,21,063 7 1		
TOTAL	5,909 4 6	TOTAL	1,22,165 7 1		
					26,52,492 12 7
		5. MISCELLANEOUS			
		(a) Provincial Committee	717 9 3		
		(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 5)	13,188 14 1		
		TOTAL	13,906 7 4		
					13,906 7 4
		6. CLOSING BALANCES			
		(a) With Provincial Committee	2,037 4 6		
		(b) With District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 7)	4,24,322 1 11		
		TOTAL	4,26,349 6 5		
					4,26,349 6 5
GRAND TOTAL R	33,51,019 6 1	GRAND TOTAL R			33,51,019 6 1

(a) This does not include a sum of Rs 10,517-2-5 collected locally in Nagpur up to 1st April 1897, the date on which the cash account of the District Committee was opened.
(b) This does not include a sum of Rs 10,511-11-11 spent on the poorhouse at Nagpur up to 1st April 1897.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,

Honorary Secretary,
Central Provinces Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening balances.	Local enscriptions for the District.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts (Miscellaneous.)	Total Receipts.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
1	Nagpur	<i>Nil.</i>	(a) 5,298 7 6	90,350 0 0	16 14 3	95,665 5 9
2	Bhandara	"	3,090 2 6	1,63,260 0 0	<i>Nil.</i>	1,66,350 2 6
3	Chanda	"	17,106 3 10	28,500 0 0	1,200 0 0*	46,806 3 10
4	Wardha	"	8,084 15 0	24,000 0 0	6 0 0	32,090 15 0
5	Balagbat	"	1,413 2 1	3,31,540 0 0	<i>Nil.</i>	3,32,953 2 1
6	Raipur	"	5,642 6 1	3,03,200 0 0	396 3 0	3,14,238 9 1
7	Bilaspur	"	2,552 5 0	2,99,070 0 0	327 9 0	3,01,949 14 0
8	Jabbulpur	"	3,092 8 3	4,27,700 0 0	272 5 6	4,31,064 13 9
9	Saugor	"	7,178 8 5	2,97,150 0 0	27 4 6	3,04,355 12 11
10	Damoh	"	3,031 3 0	2,61,000 0 0	70 1 0	2,64,151 4 0
11	Mandla	"	3,423 0 0	2,04,350 0 0	6,318 2 6	2,14,091 2 6
12	Seoni (Chhapara)	"	981 8 0	1,29,130 0 0	120 12 6	1,30,232 4 6
13	Hoshangabad	"	3,243 0 0	2,58,850 0 0	<i>Nil.</i>	2,62,093 0 0
14	Chhindwara	"	4,780 7	84,775 0 0	"	89,555 7 7
15	Narsingpur	"	1,540 0 0	2,10,000 0 0	1 12 0	2,11,541 12 0
16	Betul	"	800 8 1	61,250 0 0	<i>Nil.</i>	62,050 8 1
17	Nimar	"	800 0 0†	51,400 0 0	"	52,200 0 0
18	Feudatory States of Chhattisgarh	"	<i>Nil.</i>	35,000 0 0	"	35,000 0 0
	TOTAL R	<i>Nil.</i>	72,108 5 4	32,65,525 0 0	8,757 0 3	33,46,390 5 7

(a) This does not include R10,517-8-6 collected in Nagpur up to 1st April 1897.

* Loans.

† Received from England direct.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,

Honorary Secretary,

Central Provinces Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Statement of Expenditure of District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

EXPENDITURE.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
	Under Objects I and II jointly incurred.	Under Object II separately incurred.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing Balances.	Total.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
1 Nagpur .	4,304 ^(a) 6 3	Nil.	20,934 12 8	62,902 8 0	499 3 3	88,640 14 2	7,024 7 7	95,665 5 9
2 Bhandara .	3,705 0 5	1,238 6 5	19,427 13 4	1,00,881 0 0	390 10 3	1,25,642 14 5	40,707 4 1	1,66,350 2 6
3 Chanda .	2,729 12 8	Nil.	1,453 12 1	35,423 9 7	205 2 7	39,817 4 11	6,988 14 11	46,806 3 10
4 Wardha .	433 7 0	„	5,979 1 0	24,318 0 0	105 12 6	30,836 4 6	1,254 10 6	32,090 15 0
5 Balaghat .	1,413 2 1	„	1,005 12 0	3,25,489 11 0	5,044 9 0	3,32,953 2 1	Nil.	3,32,953 2 1
6 Raipur .	4,479 12 2	20,301 14 2	10,237 10 7	2,66,819 8 1	1,364 11 11	3,03,203 8 11	11,035 0 2	3,14,238 9 1
7 Bilaspur .	13,199 0 9	650 0 0	1,750 0 0	2,74,468 14 0	291 13 6	2,90,359 12 3	11,590 1 9	3,01,949 14 0
8 Jabalpur .	19,904 2 3	5,252 0 0	29,357 0 6	3,67,692 7 0	1,107 12 4	4,23,313 6 1	7,751 7 8	4,31,064 13 9
9 Sangor .	7,538 11 3	Nil.	1,777 10 0	2,29,520 0 0	641 9 4	2,39,477 14 7	64,877 14 4	3,04,355 12 11
10 Damoh .	5,938 2 0	„	350 0 0	2,49,516 0 0	317 0 9	2,56,121 2 9	8,030 1 3	2,64,151 4 0
11 Mandla .	7,409 11 7	„	7,743 8 3	1,49,408 7 6	223 10 2	1,64,785 5 6	49,305 13 0	2,14,091 2 6
12 Seoni .	6,123 6 10	„	1,866 0 6	1,10,907 2 7	216 2 9	1,19,112 12 8	11,119 7 10	1,30,232 4 6
13 Hoshangabad	7,035 7 10	„	8,044 15 5	87,045 5 6	557 8 4	1,02,683 5 11	1,59,409 10 11	2,62,093 0 0
14 Chhindwara	12,825 9 10	„	3,589 0 0	64,788 12 0	697 5 10	81,900 11 8	7,654 11 11	89,555 7 7
15 Narsingpur .	912 3 6	1,782 0 0	3,318 8 3	1,90,722 12 0	845 5 0	1,97,580 12 9	13,960 15 3	2,11,541 12 0
16 Betul .	2,986 12 0	Nil.	1,855 5 6	51,782 4 9	397 3 9	57,021 10 0	5,028 14 1	62,050 8 1
17 Nimar .	1,328 8 6	150 0 0	1,997 1 0	37,703 14 4	283 4 10	41,462 12 8	10,737 3 4	52,200 0 0
18 Feudatory States of Chhattisgarh	2,791 7 3	890 1 2	370 8 0	23,102 8 3	Nil.	27,154 8 8	7,845 7 4	35,000 0 0
TOTAL ₹ .	1,05,058 12 2	30,264 5 9	1,21,063 7 1	26,52,492 12 7	13,188 14 1	1,29,22,063 3 8	4,24,322 1 11	33,46,390 5 7

(a) This does not include ₹10,541-11-11 spent on the poorhouse at Nagpur up to 1st April 1897.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,

Honorary Secretary,

Central Provinces Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund

BENGAL BRANCH.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

FROM THE HON'BLE W. H. GRIMLEY,

*Chairman, Bengal Executive Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,*

TO THE HON'BLE SIR FRANCIS MACLEAN, K.C.I.E.,

Chairman, Central Executive Committee.

Dated Calcutta, the 9th February 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Report on the Administration of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in Bengal, which was adopted at a meeting held this day.

2. I also forward, at the request of the Committee, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Government of Bengal and of a resolution passed by the Committee, regarding the services rendered by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. N. Baker, c.s., in the administration of the Fund.

3. The duties of the Bengal Executive Committee being now at an end, they have now dissolved.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. GRIMLEY,

*Chairman, Bengal Executive Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

BENGAL BRANCH.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

FROM THE HON'BLE W. H. GRIMLEY,

*Chairman, Bengal Executive Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,*

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Calcutta, the 9th February 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward for the information of Government copy of the report of the Bengal Provincial Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, and at the same time I am desirous to express on behalf of the Committee their high appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by their Secretary, Mr. E. N. Baker, in connection with the administration of the Fund in addition to his ordinary duties. The Committee have also placed on record a resolution in recognition of these services. The duties of his post, voluntarily undertaken, have not only entailed much labour, but have been attended with peculiar difficulties. As the mouthpiece of the Committee it fell to him to interpret and explain to the numerous local Committees with whom the Committee were in correspondence the objects of the Fund and the principles of action which had been laid down in general terms by the Central Committee. This he did at the outset of the undertaking with great care, sufficient detail, and, what is more, with the necessary promptitude, and after making his preliminary instructions as complete as possible, it became his duty to watch the proceedings of the District Committees and to check and call them to account whenever they seemed to be overstepping the line of action marked out for them, and this part of his self-imposed task he also performed with much tact, forethought, and an entire absence of friction. He studiously avoided the assumption of any authority beyond his powers, but was careful to consult the Chairman, and through him the Committee, when necessary, on all matters requiring their attention and orders. The correspondence with the several District Committees became very voluminous, but in discussing the various matters under reference with the Chairman, Mr. Baker has always shown himself most fertile in useful expedients and suggestions, and having all the details of the work well within his grasp, he was able to become the mainspring of action in the administration of the charity.

Personally, I am extremely grateful for his willing assistance, and the Provincial Committee, who are equally indebted to him for his excellent services, have desired me to bring them to the notice of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. GRIMLEY.

*Chairman, Bengal Executive Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

Extract from the Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, held at the office of the Board of Revenue on Wednesday, the 9th February 1898.

THE Committee desire to place on record an expression of their high appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by the Secretary, Mr. E. N. Baker, in connection with the administration of the Famine Fund entrusted to the Committee.

Resolved—That a copy of the above resolution and of the Chairman's letter to Government, recording his opinion of Mr. Baker's services, be attached to the letter forwarding the report to the Chairman of the Central Committee.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND

IN

BENGAL.

THE effects of the famine of 1897 were felt throughout the whole of Bengal: but all parts of the province were not affected in an equal degree. The following table shows the area and population of those districts and tracts which were officially recognized as affected by famine:—

DISTRICT.		Area of the district.	Total population of the district.	Total area affected.	Population of the affected area.
1		2	3	4	5
		Sq. miles.		Sq. miles.	
Patna Division	{ Shahabad ...	4,365	2,063,000	1,632	382,000
	{ Saran ...	2,651	2,466,000	1,512	1,416,000
	{ Champaran ...	3,531	1,860,000	3,531	1,860,000
	{ Muzaffarpur ...	3,005	2,713,000	1,851	1,660,000
	{ Darbhanga ...	3,335	2,801,000	2,940	2,234,000
	Total ...	16,887	11,903,000	11,466	7,552,000
Bhagalpur Division	{ Bhagalpur ...	4,228	2,032,000	600	325,000
	{ Sonthal Parganas ...	5,470	1,754,000	1,321	377,000
	Total ...	9,696	3,786,000	1,921	702,000
Chota Nagpur Division	{ Hazaribagh ...	7,021	1,164,000	1,750	200,000
	{ Palamau ...	4,912	596,000	4,912	595,000
	{ Manbhum ...	4,147	1,193,000	3,373	991,000
	Total ...	16,080	2,953,000	10,035	1,787,000
Presidency Division	{ Nadia ...	2,793	1,644,000	1,070	562,000
	{ Khulna ...	2,077	1,177,000	474	276,000
	{ Murshidabad ...	2,144	1,250,000	205	120,000
	Total ...	7,014	4,071,000	1,749	958,000
Burdwan Division	Bankura ...	2,621	1,070,000	1,053	413,000
Orissa Division	Puri ...	2,473	945,000	274	89,000
	Total ...	51,771	24,728,000	26,498	11,601,000

2. In these districts the famine was most severe and necessitated the opening of regular relief works by State agency under the Famine Code. There were also many other tracts where great and widespread distress prevailed, though in a less

acute form, more particularly in the districts of Patna, Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore, Dinajpur and Lohardaga. These districts comprise an area of 20,428 square miles, and a population of 9,018,279. Outside the area included within these two groups, the effect of the famine was chiefly felt in the great and sustained

rise in the price of food-grains, which extended to every district of Bengal, and indeed throughout India. This matter is further referred to in paragraph 11 of this report; but in the present place it may be broadly stated that for ten months prices ranged about 100 per cent. above the normal rate. The suffering and distress thus occasioned were shared by all except the wealthy, but chiefly by the poorer middle class, the *bhadra tok*, on small fixed or inelastic incomes, by the labouring and menial classes and the poorer artizans and weavers, and by those who are ordinarily dependant on private charity. No part of Bengal was wholly spared, though the eastern districts suffered less than others; and ample scope for the charity of the Relief Fund was found in every district, with the fortunate exceptions of Hooghly, Darjeeling, Backergunge and Balasore.

3. Foremost among the affected tracts, whether regard is had to the

Description of affected area.
Patna Division.

numbers concerned, the intensity of distress, or the danger to human life, are the four districts of North Bihar. These districts, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, forming the northern or trans-Gangetic section of the Patna Division, stretch in an irregular band, 80 miles in width, from the Ganges to the borders of Nepal. They are intersected by the Gogra and Gandak, and several smaller rivers, which flow from the Nepal hills to join the Ganges, with a trend from the north-west to the south-east. There is no artificial irrigation (other than wells) except in Saran, which has a small canal system of little value. The population is extremely dense, averaging 785 to the square mile, which is exceeded in parts of Saran. The great majority of the inhabitants live by agriculture, there being very few local manufactures. The soil is for the most part under cultivation and exceedingly fertile, except in the north and west of Champaran. It is divided in varying but tolerably equal proportions between the three main harvests: the *bhudo*, or rain crop, which includes early rice, millets, maize and indigo; the *aghani*, or winter rice; and the *rabi*, or spring crop, which includes wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, opium and oilseeds. The winter rice is the most important single crop, and its normal outturn ranges from 39.75 per cent. of the whole in Champaran, to 54.26 per cent. in Darbhanga. The people are, generally speaking, skilful, industrious and thrifty in their habits. Large numbers annually leave their homes temporarily, especially from Saran, in search of work in North and East Bengal. All four districts were affected by the famines of 1866 and 1873-74. The material condition of the inhabitants is thus summed up by the Commissioner of Patna:

"In spite of these many advantages, the material condition of the peasantry is a good deal below what it is elsewhere, not only in other parts of India, but in other Divisions of the Lower Provinces. The population is extraordinarily dense, and is steadily increasing: early marriages are universal, while the comparatively salubrious climate induces a relatively high birth-rate and a low death-rate. The people are almost entirely agricultural, holdings are small and greatly subdivided, and in most districts the landlords are themselves of a petty class and much impoverished: all these conditions make for indebtedness and poverty, and the result is that a large proportion of the agricultural poor have sunk from the position of tenants, and are day-labourers and serfs, while with the majority of those who still occupy land, life is a perpetual struggle on the verge of insolvency."

4. A leading feature in the economic survey of these districts is the presence of indigo and poppy cultivation on a large scale. The area under each crop is as follows:—

		Indigo.	Poppy.
		Ares.	Ares.
Saran	...	32,300	40,842
Champaran	...	81,000	46,495
Muzaffarpur	...	102,200	11,390
Darbhanga	...	70,300	2,118
Total	...	285,800	100,845

Regarding the indigo industry, the Collector of Champaran has made the following remarks, which are applicable to all four districts:—

"Though occupying only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cultivated area, the indigo crop is of the greatest economic importance to the people of this district. The elaborate tilling and weeding of the lands and the cutting and cutting of the plant afford employment to a very large proportion of the labouring classes for a considerable portion of the year, while in most of the plantations the peasantry have the good fortune to live under lenient landlords who show them much consideration in a year of distress."

The poppy crop is also of great value to the people by reason, among other things, of the substantial advances which they receive from Government for cultivating it. During 1896 these amounted to $11\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees, in the four districts under discussion.

5. The only other tract in the Patna Division in which severe famine prevailed was the Bhabhua subdivision in the south-west corner of Shahabad, together with a part of the adjacent subdivision of Sasaram. This tract includes a part of the Kaimore plateau, besides some lowlying country at its foot. It is sparsely populated, the crops are poor and precarious, and communications are so difficult that during the rains parts of it are almost inaccessible. This was one of the very few parts of the province in which the Government was forced to abandon its established policy of non-interference with private trade, and to make arrangements that the local markets should be supplied in due time by a grain dealer appointed by the Collector.

6. In the Bhagalpur Division, the severely distressed area was confined to parts of the districts of Bhagalpur and the Sonthal Parganas. In the former, it comprised the Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions, which lie north of the Ganges. The soil is comparatively poor: the *aghani*, or winter rice, is the chief crop, while there is little *bhadoi* or *rabi*, and artificial irrigation ducts or tanks are few. The population consists chiefly of low caste Hindus and Hinduised aborigines.

In the Sonthal Parganas the distress was most acute in the Deoghur and Jamtara subdivisions. The following description of the district is given by Mr. Carstairs, the experienced Deputy Commissioner.

"Its soil is poor and undulating, the lower ground and beds of small water-courses having been terraced extensively into paddy-fields, sometimes protected by springs or reservoirs, but often unprotected. So the country has to depend very much on rain-water to carry through its cultivation; and when that fails, there is distress.

"The principal food-crops grown are mentioned below in the order of their importance, namely:—

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| (1) Rice. | (4) Pulses. |
| (2) Indian-corn. | (5) Wheat. |
| (3) Marua. | |

"In the major portion of the district *mahua* flowers and fruit help a great deal in forming the food-staple of many classes of men, especially aborigines. They also live on many sorts of forest produce, when their food-crops prove deficient or insufficient. As regards the economic condition of the people, they are generally unostentatious, simple, and seldom indulge in luxury. The Sonthals are improvident and fond of enjoying themselves, but wonderfully patient and independent when distressed. The principal occupation of the people is agriculture, and even when a man earns his livelihood by some other means, he must have a little cultivation to supplement his earnings.

"The Sonthals and Bhuiyas emigrate in large numbers yearly to work in the tea-gardens of the Duars and the Darjeeling Terai. Some go to the neighbouring districts of Burdwan and Birbhum, and some to Malda to reap the rice crop. Some also emigrate as labourers to Assam and Chittagong."

7. The area affected in the Chota Nagpur Division was almost as large as that in the Patna Division, but the population involved was only about one-fourth as great. The area of acute distress included the whole of Palamau, the whole of Manbhum, except the south-eastern portion, and the northern and eastern portions of Hazaribagh. No part of either Lohardaga or Singhbhum was officially recognized as affected, but there was a good deal of distress in the former district.

The country may be described as consisting of an ascending series of plateaux rising in successive terraces from 800 to 3,500 feet, separated from each other by ranges of hills and watered by numerous rivers flowing into the Mahanuddy on the one side and the Ganges on the other. In all the districts the country is much broken up by ravines, with cultivated valleys and rolling downs interspersed. The highest point in the Division is the Parasnath hill, a well-known Jain place of pilgrimage in Hazaribagh, which

has an elevation of 4,479 feet above sea level. The Ranchi plateau, with an area of 4,500 square miles, has an average elevation of 2,100 feet, and the Hazaribagh plateau, 600 square miles in extent, is about the same level. The Palamau district, which is of comparatively recent formation, lies to the north and west of Lohardaga, and consists of spurs thrown out from the Ranchi and Hazaribagh plateaux, and a tangled mass of broken hills and more or less open valleys, with an average height of 1,200 feet. The Manbhum district is hilly to the south, and also in the extreme north and west, where it borders on the Jamtara subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas, and on the Hazaribagh district. In the centre and to the east the country is flat and open, and includes the valley of the Damuda.

The population of the Division is scanty, averaging 128 to the square mile, though parts of Manbhum rise considerably above this figure. The inhabitants are mostly Hindus and aboriginals, many sections of the latter having become more or less Hinduized. Sonthals, who number 290,000, are found mostly in Hazaribagh, the north of Manbhum and Singhbhum. Mundas, Uraons, and Korwas, a semi-wild tribe, numbering altogether 880,000, are found chiefly in Lohardaga and Singhbhum. The population includes also a greater proportion of Native Christians than any other part of Bengal, and all the principal Missions—Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and others—have local branches. The Division is a favourite recruiting ground for the Assam tea-gardens, and thousands of labourers leave it every year either under indenture or nominally as free emigrants.

The soil is only moderately fertile, and the mineral wealth in which the Division abounds as yet gives employment to but few. Of the three chief crops, the winter rice is by far the most important, being more than two-thirds of the whole food-supply. The *bhadoi*, or rain crop, represents rather more than one-fourth, and the remainder is represented by the *rabi* or spring crop, which is insignificant, except in Palamau. Forest edible products, including the flower of the *mahua* tree, form a most valuable addition to the food-supply of the people, especially in the wilder and more hilly parts.

With the exception of certain main roads, the communications are of a very primitive description and consist of narrow bridle paths, along which lightly-laden pack-bullocks pick their leisurely way to distant marts. Traffic is also carried on by bullock-carts, but these are rarely to be found off the metalled roads, and owing to the long distances to be travelled over, this is a very laborious and tedious mode of transporting produce. Palamau is particularly badly off in respect of communications, and in this district it became necessary at one period of the famine for Government to supplement the ordinary operations of trade by offering a bounty on importations of grain. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the only through line in the Division, traverses a very small corner on the south-east, but is of comparatively little use to the more distant places. The roads also, such as they are, are frequently intercepted by hills, ravines and rivers which are unbridged and at certain seasons of the year unfordable. The occurrence of scarcity in an acute form in Chota Nagpur emphasises the necessity for a liberal extension of the railway system in this fine country with its vast mineral wealth and immense trading possibilities, a measure which was frequently advocated by the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Grimley, the present Chairman of the Provincial Famine Relief Committee, who was for many years Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

8. In the Presidency Division, which includes five districts surrounding Calcutta on the north, east and south, distress was most acute in Nadia, Khulna and Murshidabad, but parts of Jessore were affected to a nearly equal extent. The 24-Parganas district, which immediately encircles the Presidency town, escaped unscathed, except for the high prevailing prices. Mr. Westmacott, the Commissioner of the Division, gives the following account of the area affected, and the economic conditions of the people.

Physical conditions of area affected.

"In Nadia the area affected is composed of two classes of land—a black clay soil on low lands, and a light sandy soil on higher levels. The former is subject to inundation and grows only *aman* rice, but the light soil grows *aus* rice and *rabi* crops. Over the greater part of the affected tracts in Murshidabad the chief crops are *aus* rice followed by a cold-weather crop, but on the low land in the south-east of the district known as the "Kalantar," the only crop is *aman* rice, which depends almost entirely on seasonable inundation. The

"affected tracts in Jessore consisted of high lands along the banks of rivers, also some low-lying *bheels*. In Khulna the tract affected is low and flat, being intersected by numerous tidal *khaals* and protected from inundation by small embankments called *bherries*. The soil is impregnated with salt, and grows nothing but *aman* rice, which will not thrive unless there is enough fresh water to wash the salt out of the ground.

The nature and the relative importance of the crops grown.

"In Nadia the early or *aus* rice is a far more important crop than the winter or *aman* rice, the area under the former being twice as large as that under the latter. The other crops in this district are by no means of equal importance. In Murshidabad the principal crop is *aman* rice, which is grown in the *Rarh* tract, which comprises the west of the district, and also in low lands in the *Bagri*. *Aus* rice is grown in the *Bagri*. The *Rarh* is "the chief source of the food-supply of the district, and most of it this year produced a very good crop, which was largely exported into Nadia and probably elsewhere. About one-fourth of the cultivated area of the district is under mulberry, jute, indigo, oil-seeds, &c. The principal crops in order of importance in Jessore are *aman* and *aus* rice, jute, indigo, oil-seeds, pulses, millets and tobacco, but date-sugar, which is a special product of the district, contributes very largely to the resources of the people. In Khulna *aman* rice is the staple crop, but *aus* and *boro* rice and jute are also grown to some extent. Such crops as *kalai*, *khensari*, *sarisa*, &c., are grown in small quantities.

The economic condition of the people, their chief occupations, and the existence of any special customs.

"In Nadia the cultivators and the holders of petty *lakhiraj* tenures are by no means so well off as similar classes in Jessore, Khulna, or the 24-Parganas, and there is much indebtedness. The cultivators of Murshidabad are also in debt, though, perhaps, not so entirely dependent upon *mahajans* as the cultivators of Nadia. The great majority of cultivators in Nadia are tenants-at-will, and cultivate on the system known as *utbandi* under which raiyats have no fixed holdings. There is also a certain number of persons who own, occupy and cultivate, or sublet hereditary rent-free lands. In Jessore the people are chiefly agriculturists, and although their welfare depends to a great extent upon the success of the *aman* rice crop, they have, in all the higher parts of the district, a valuable source of income in date-sugar. There are a very few labourers in the district, and what there are, are in the habit of going annually to the Sundarbans in search of employment, and remitting funds by money-orders for the support of their families. About four-fifths of the population of Khulna are agriculturists, and I consider that they are generally prosperous and comparatively wealthy. There is little trade except in grain and dried fish. If the people get a good crop, they are contented. Almost all the zamindars are absentees, indifferent to the welfare of their tenants, and the inferior tenure-holders or *gantidars* are said to be impoverished by successive bad years, though not, I suspect, to the extent which they allege. The *Pods* in this district change their habitations after the winter crop has been gathered. They never cut their crops themselves, but the work is done by hired labourers coming from other parts of the district. This indicates that they can afford to be idle, as their labourers go away with boat-loads of rice."

9. The two remaining tracts which were classed by Government as severely affected are portions of the Bankura district in Burdwan, and of Puri in Orissa. The former adjoins on the east the district of Manbhum in Chota Nagpur, and its physical characteristics are similar. The district is undulating, with hill and jungle to the south, and open level country to the north and east, where it is intersected by the Damodar river. The population, which includes many Sonthals and other aboriginals, is mainly agricultural. The principal crop is the winter rice, which suffices to maintain the population, and also yields a surplus for export. In 1897, notwithstanding the presence of famine, the exports of rice amounted to 3,37,000 maunds, from January to September.

The district of Puri lies in the extreme south of the Orissa Division, bordering on the Ganjam district of Madras. An area of 231 square miles lying along the Chilka lake was flooded in July and August 1896, and was subsequently exposed to drought. It is a noticeable characteristic of the inhabitants of this district that even the lower castes object to their women appearing in public, and none or very few of these were ever found on the relief works opened by Government.

10. The famine of 1897 was due to the shortness and unseasonable distribution of the rains of 1896. The rainfall was deficient during the months of July and August, when sowing and transplanting of rice are in progress, and from the 19th September rain ceased altogether till the close of the year, thus depriving the young crops at the critical time of the moisture necessary to bring them to maturity. The extent and distribution of the deficiency in the districts most seriously affected are exhibited in the following table:—

Failure of the rains of 1896.

Statement showing the monthly rainfall in each of the affected districts of Bengal during 1895-97 as compared with the normal fall.

RAINFALL IN INCHES.

Districts.		1896.												1897.													
		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		January.		February.		March.		Total.	
		Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.	Actual.	Normal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Bankura	0.05	1.21	4.46	4.80	12.11	10.44	13.77	12.67	9.81	12.42	4.22	8.16	NH	3.16	0.3	0.70	NH	0.13	0.02	0.23	0.73	0.91	2.56	1.13	48.26	23.10	
Nadia	1.72	2.81	7.08	6.49	11.23	0.72	7.30	10.59	3.33	11.29	8.42	6.12	NH	4.12	NH	0.59	NH	0.12	NH	0.34	0.25	1.14	1.71	1.70	42.30	27.21	
Murshidabad	0.50	1.55	4.49	5.37	11.52	0.60	8.39	11.11	7.18	10.11	7.70	9.45	0.01	2.76	0.01	0.65	0.31	0.10	0.03	0.15	0.21	0.88	0.52	1.56	40.81	23.12	
Khulna	1.53	2.94	4.47	6.49	12.73	12.45	10.45	12.82	5.82	11.76	10.46	6.53	6.14	4.34	0.02	0.9	NH	0.21	NH	0.70	0.25	1.18	1.82	2.01	20.37	23.30	
Shahabad	NH	0.12	0.28	1.03	0.76	2.47	0.29	11.03	10.44	12.28	2.29	0.83	NH	2.87	0.57	0.25	0.29	0.72	0.02	0.07	1.27	0.51	0.79	0.41	32.01	42.42	
Saran	0.03	0.20	0.70	1.77	2.65	6.64	8.78	12.14	8.70	10.89	1.25	7.09	NH	3.19	0.05	0.23	0.47	0.12	0.12	0.72	0.29	0.21	0.34	0.30	23.03	41.01	
Champanan	NH	0.22	1.25	2.66	4.04	10.15	10.53	13.76	9.45	13.22	2.35	9.20	NH	3.31	0.04	0.15	0.29	0.16	0.12	0.73	0.13	0.42	1.28	0.45	20.60	23.10	
Muzaffarpur	0.08	0.22	2.69	2.23	6.07	7.49	12.16	12.39	7.35	11.15	2.73	7.27	NH	2.61	0.29	0.13	0.19	0.09	0.02	0.74	0.50	0.47	0.75	0.42	32.23	43.7	
Darbhanga	0.03	0.20	3.05	2.23	2.11	7.41	11.59	12.47	10.69	12.71	6.21	5.21	0.03	1.10	0.41	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.19	0.78	0.78	0.45	1.29	0.40	25.23	49.74	
Bhagalpur	0.10	0.23	4.97	2.31	6.25	8.21	9.26	13.12	6.29	11.76	9.47	2.27	NH	2.29	0.07	0.21	0.11	0.17	0.25	0.72	0.12	0.26	1.90	0.46	40.35	51.23	
Boothal Parganas	0.27	0.77	3.70	8.25	11.15	8.75	10.19	13.17	8.29	11.25	7.57	0.17	0.10	3.57	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.11	0.21	0.46	0.22	0.81	1.17	0.72	41.22	52.71	
Puri	0.12	0.41	2.80	3.25	12.22	8.24	12.75	10.94	19.46	12.05	7.45	10.71	0.37	6.99	0.09	2.03	NH	0.41	0.01	0.23	2.04	0.71	3.01	0.87	60.03	23.14	
Hazratbagh	NH	0.23	0.63	2.28	10.79	7.92	10.26	14.26	12.22	13.20	6.47	5.79	NH	3.57	0.12	0.25	0.03	0.18	0.63	0.55	1.19	0.82	1.86	0.87	21.83	23.47	
Palamau	NH	0.16	NH	1.22	8.02	6.46	8.89	11.12	10.72	11.02	4.25	7.22	NH	2.73	1.07	0.29	0.25	0.17	0.41	0.79	1.41	0.22	1.45	0.77	38.00	49.06	
Manbhum	NH	0.07	1.67	3.13	10.63	6.93	12.66	11.37	10.23	13.25	2.29	7.72	NH	2.92	0.19	0.47	0.19	0.16	0.12	0.42	0.89	0.66	2.05	1.08	43.01	52.12	

11. The following account of the extent to which the crops of 1896-97 suffered from the failure of the rains, and of the consequence on the price of food-grains throughout the Province, is taken from the General Administration Report of Bengal for that year:—

"Like all previous famines in Bengal, the famine of 1896-97 was caused by the failure of the monsoon rains, and was the result of two successive bad seasons. The season of 1895, although on the whole favourable to the *bhadoi* or autumn crops, was bad for the winter rice, inasmuch as the rains were unevenly distributed at the time of sowing, and ceased earlier than was necessary to ensure a full outturn. Then followed a prolonged drought, which lasted throughout the cold weather, and materially injured the *rabi* or spring crops. For the Province as a whole the outturn of the *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 14 annas, of winter rice at 13 annas, and of the *rabi* crops at 11 to 12 annas. The good crops reaped in 1893-94 and 1894-95 enabled the people to tide over the partial failure of 1895-96, but a greater disaster followed, and caused distress more or less acute throughout the Province. The rainfall of 1896 was very nearly as short as in 1873, and was worse distributed. The *bhadoi* crops suffered from short rainfall in all parts of the Province except in Orissa, where, on the other hand, there was excessive rain in July and August, resulting in floods which destroyed the standing crops over a large area. The average outturn of these crops for the whole Province is estimated at 10½ annas, but the outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops alone is believed to have been not more than 9½ annas. The injury done to the great winter rice crop by deficient rainfall during the sowing and transplanting season was aggravated by the entire cessation of the rains at the most critical period; no rain fell after the 19th September. The effect of these abnormal meteorological conditions was that the total area cultivated with winter rice was about a million acres less than in the preceding year, and that the outturn of the crop was as bad in Bihar and in parts of Bengal as in 1873, the estimate for the whole Province being only 7½ annas, or less than half the average crop. The *rabi* crops of 1896-97 suffered considerably from the want of moisture in the soil, but showers of rain fell at intervals during the cold weather, which did much good in the Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The outturn of these crops throughout the Province is estimated at 10½ annas. The *mahua* and *maugo* crops, which in an ordinary year form a useful supplement to the food-grains, were also poor. Not only was the failure of the crops in the Province of Bengal as great as in 1873-74, but it extended throughout India and caused an unprecedented rise in prices.

"Prices in Bengal generally rose instead of falling, as in ordinary years, as soon as the *bhadoi* crops had been harvested, and there was a further sharp rise when the failure of the winter rice became certain. The following table shows the prices of common rice in seers per rupee at the head-quarters of the affected districts, in comparison with the normal rates and the prices which prevailed during the famine of 1873-74: the prices of other food-grains rose proportionately:—

DISTRICT (HEAD-QUARTERS).	OCTOBER.			JANUARY.			APRIL.			JULY.		
	Normal rate.	1873.	1896.	Normal rate.	1874.	1897.	Normal rate.	1874.	1897.	Normal rate.	1874.	1897.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
Arrah (Shahabad) ...	14 3	14 0	8 8	14 10	13 0	10 0	14 1	12 0	8 4	13 12	11 8	7 8
Chupra (Saran) ...	14 15	13 0	9 0	11 3	12 0	9 5	13 13	12 0	9 0	14 15	13 0	7 4
Meithuri (Champaran) ...	17 0	20 0	11 0	16 6	13 0	9 0	14 6	0 0	8 12	13 8	11 0	7 11
Muzaffarpur ...	13 15	16 0	8 4	14 13	9 0	9 0	12 6	9 0	8 0	13 2	10 0	7 4
Darbhanga ...	14 13	14 0	10 0	16 13	11 8	9 4	15 2	9 12	8 0	14 6	0 12	7 0
Bhagalpur ...	15 11	17 0	9 6	17 4	12 0	10 2	15 13	11 0	8 14	16 8	12 0	8 3
Dumka (Sonthal Parganas) ...	14 7	15 0	9 4	15 14	13 0	10 0	15 6	11 0	8 2	14 13	11 0	7 10
Hazariabagh ...	14 5	12 2	8 12	15 0	13 5	8 0	14 8	12 10	8 0	13 11	13 11	6 6
Ranchi (Lohardaga) ...	10 8	16 0	10 0	17 6	17 8	9 0	10 8	14 0	8 0	14 13	16 12	6 0
Daltonganj (Palamau) ...	14 8	11 5	5 7	15 7	12 14	8 11	14 6	11 8	6 14	12 10	13 8	7 5
Purulia (Manbhum) ...	15 14	15 0	12 0	18 4	15 8	10 5	17 0	13 0	8 12	14 10	18 0	7 8
Bankura ...	16 5	15 5	11 0	16 10	14 4	11 4	16 3	13 5	10 0	15 3	19 5	9 0
Krishnanagar (Nadia) ...	12 12	16 3	8 5	14 1	12 5	9 2	13 6	11 7	8 3	12 6	11 0	7 4
Khulna ...	13 3	25 0	9 0	14 11	17 0	11 3	14 15	23 0	0 4	13 0	13 4	8 0
Berhampore (Murshidabad) ...	13 6	13 0	9 8	14 9	11 0	10 0	13 7	10 0	5 8	13 0	11 4	7 8
Puri ...	18 0	32 0	11 13	19 7	22 0	10 8	19 0	25 0	11 13	17 3	25 0	11 0
Rampur Boalia (Rajshahi) ...	12 8	15 8	7 8	14 2	12 0	9 12	13 4	21 3	8 1	19 6	12 5	6 12
Patna ...	14 11	17 0	9 12	14 11	14 8	9 6	13 12	12 0	9 0	14 1	14 0	8 4

"The effect of the early cessation of the monsoon rains was more disastrous in Bihar* than elsewhere, partly because the comparatively high lands of Bihar require more moisture for the growth of rice and other crops than the low-lying lands of Lower Bengal. In Bihar, too, the population is extremely dense and much poorer than in most other parts of the Province. The ordinary wages of agricultural labour are extremely low, and they have, owing partly to the growth of population and partly to

	Outturn of winter rice.
	As.
*Shahabad ...	4
Saran ...	14
Champaran ...	3½
Muzaffarpur ...	3
Darbhanga ...	5

the influence of custom, remained practically unaltered for the past 20 years or more, while the prices of food-grains have largely increased during the same period.

12. When it became apparent that the Province was face to face with a serious famine, steps were taken in a number of districts to organize measures for charitable relief. In the Presidency Division the Commissioner allotted sums of Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,500, and Rs. 1,000 respectively to the districts of Nadia, Jessore, and Khulna from the balance of the late Bengal Distress Relief Fund, and these funds, together with subscriptions raised locally, were distributed by Subdivisional Officers and others under the orders of the Collector. In Nadia a local Relief Committee was formed on the 23rd December 1896. In Khulna, subscriptions were raised as early as July 1896, and were spent in purchasing paddy for husking, and in giving doles of grain and money. In Rajshahi a public meeting was called in December 1896 under the presidency of the Commissioner, and subscriptions were raised, which were expended in that district. A small grant of Rs. 300 was also made by the Commissioner for expediture in Bogra.

13. In the Patna Division, where the approach of the famine was felt earlier than elsewhere, the organization of charitable relief received attention from the outset. In October 1896, when the price of grain rose suddenly in the city of Patna, the Collector called a general meeting of the inhabitants and formed a Committee, which purchased grain and sold it at one seer below the market rate to deserving persons in the presence of a member of the Committee. In Gaya, in the first half of December, the Collector caused each Municipality to raise a small sum locally, and placed it in the hands of a Committee of the principal inhabitants, to be expended in relieving cases of proved distress. Early in January, the appearance of distressed wanderers along the Grand Trunk Road warned the local authorities that relief was needed, and two kitchens were established for their assistance at Aurangabad and Kusa. In Shahabad a public meeting was called in December, and machinery was organized for the prompt distribution of relief when occasion should arise. In Saran the Collector, Mr. Earle, was prompt to act on the Commissioner's admonitions to arrange for charitable relief in good time. Meetings were held and Committees formed; and in the town of Chapra, during January, February and March, grain was distributed in weekly doles at three centres in the town, under the personal supervision of the Municipal Commissioners, aided by almost all the European residents of both sexes. In Champaran the Motihari branch of the Theosophical Society from an early date issued grain doles on their own account to all who chose to accept them, and continued to do so for two and a-half months. In January the Maharani of Bettiah established a large kitchen, at which an average of 596 persons received cooked food daily for a month and a-half. In Darbhanga a meeting was held on the 22nd December, at which it was decided to call for subscriptions, to appoint a Committee, and to direct its members to institute enquiries for destitute persons who were outside the conditions of Government relief. More than Rs. 6,000 was collected in this manner before the fund was eventually absorbed in the District Relief Committee.

In the Bhagalpur Division small grants were made in December to Malda and the Sonthal Parganas from the balance of the Bengal Distress Relief Fund, but, except in Jamtara in the latter district, no expediture was actually found necessary. In Hazaribagh, subscriptions were raised in December 1896, and a kitchen was opened which provided relief to all destitute persons till May 1897, when it was taken over by Government.

14. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was inaugurated in India on the 14th January, when a public meeting was held in Calcutta at which His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and resolutions were adopted recognizing that the time had come for the formation of a fund for charitable relief, supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations. By other resolutions the meeting accepted the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions might be devoted, as set forth in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and arrangements were made for the appointment of a General and a Central Executive Committee. The objects to which the Fund

Charitable relief prior to formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Establishment of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund and organization of relief.

was to be applied are set forth in Appendix A of this report, and were briefly as follows:—

- (1) To supplement the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospital, for children, and the like;
- (2) to provide for the maintenance of orphans;
- (3) to relieve the numerous poor but respectable persons, who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it is by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved; and
- (4) to restore to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and to give them a fresh start in life.

15. In accordance with the scheme approved by the Central Executive

Formation of Provincial Committee for Bengal.

Committee, arrangements were at once made to form a Provincial Committee for Bengal, including representatives of every division and district.

For the direct conduct of business an Executive Committee was appointed, of which the Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, c.s.i., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, L.P., was Chairman, and Mr E. N. Baker, c.s., Collector of Customs, Calcutta, was Honorary Secretary. The constitution of the Committee is shown in Appendix B. As originally formed, it included 32 members, of whom 8 were officials and 24 non-officials, and was thoroughly representative of all sections of the community. The Hon'ble Mr. Stevens filled the office of Chairman till the 23rd June, when he resigned on being appointed to officiate as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. His place was taken by the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. Grimley, the present Senior Member of the Board of Revenue.

16. The first meeting of the Committee was held on the 28th January,

First measures taken by Provincial Committee.

and was fully attended. Arrangements were made for inviting subscriptions and issuing collection books, and a circular was drawn up for issue

to all District Officers, requesting them to form local Relief Committees, explaining the nature of the organization recommended by the Committee, and setting forth the objects to which, and the manner in which, the Fund should be applied. A copy of this circular, which forms the basis on which charitable relief was administered in Bengal, is given in Appendix C.

17. On receipt of this circular, active steps were taken in all districts

Formation of District Relief Committees.

to organize machinery for charitable relief. Murshidabad was the first* district to form a Relief Committee, which was established on the 30th January 1896 under the presidency of the District Judge. This district, though not one of those most severely affected, was most active and efficient in the administration of charitable relief. It raised

by local subscriptions the liberal sum of Rs. 27,011 for local expenditure, besides contributing towards the relief of sufferers elsewhere. Bogra, Malda, and Chittagong were also prompt in forming Committees, and in the Patna Division the Committees which had been formed prior to the establishment of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund were at once merged in the District Relief Committees constituted under the Fund. Eventually a Committee was formed in every district of the Province, with branch and sub-committees for subordinate areas in all distressed districts. Ordinarily the Collector or District Judge was Chairman of the District Committee, but in Burdwan and Palamau that office was filled by non-official gentlemen, Raja Bun Bihari Kapur and Rai Thakuraj Bhagobat Dyal Singh Deo Bahadur. The details of the organization differed slightly in different districts, but the following account, which is taken from the interesting report of Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, c.s.i., Commissioner of Patna, is, in substance, typical of all:—

“A Central District Committee was first appointed, of which the Collector was the Chairman, and a Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were elected, sometimes official

and sometimes non-official. A local Committee was next nominated for each subdivision with similar office-bearers: for municipal towns a separate Committee was usually appointed, and in those districts which were most severely affected sub-committees were formed for each thana or outpost. On these various Committees most of the influential men of the neighbourhood found a seat: a large majority were non-officials, and, besides officials, they included European planters, lawyers, and doctors, native gentlemen and zamindars, pleaders, bankers, school-masters, and in short all who could afford the time to assist in what was universally recognised as a work of real benevolence. The Committees administered each their own jurisdiction under the orders of the District Committee: to them they applied for funds, and to their Chairman they forwarded accounts and returns: these were submitted by him to the Secretary to the Fund in Calcutta. In each jurisdiction a definite work was usually assigned to each working member of the Committee, and besides this in some districts separate sub-committees were formed. In Saran an Accounts Sub-Committee did excellent work in drawing up simple rules of business and account, which proved to be of the greatest service. Usually, the care of the persons falling under the different heads of relief mentioned in paragraph 50 above was entrusted to different members, some taking over the care of orphans and the supply of comforts in poor-houses and hospitals, while a second group undertook to investigate the claims of the respectable poor, and a third charged themselves with the duty of regulating the grants under Object IV—a process which in the later stages of the operations involved much labour and enquiry.”

18. In the administration of the Fund, the principle that commended itself to the Provincial Committee was that the actual disbursement of the money and giving of relief should be entrusted to the District Relief Committees, which alone possessed the necessary machinery, and which were in close touch with the distressed population and in immediate relations with the local officers of Government charged with famine work. The duties which the Provincial Committee reserved to itself were the collecting of estimates of the funds required by the various districts and the preparation of consolidated estimates for the Province; the procuring of funds from the Central Committee, and their distribution from time to time to different districts and divisions; the issue of detailed instructions to guide the local Relief Committees in the grant of relief; the prescribing, collection, and examination of periodical returns of expenditure and of persons relieved, and the compilation of similar returns for the whole Province; and the settlement, in communication with the Central Committee and the Local Government, of all questions of principle that might arise in the course of the operations.

19. To this division of duties there was one exception. At the outset it was considered that, as the area of severe distress was for the most part situated at a distance from Calcutta, no Relief Committee need be formed for the Presidency Town. Before long, however, it was found that the pressure of famine prices, which, as already explained, were a universal feature of the year throughout India, was making itself felt, to a limited extent, in Calcutta itself. The Committee therefore took upon itself the task of dealing with cases of distress at the Presidency. At first these were of rare occurrence. Grants aggregating Rs. 1,400 were made from time to time to the Hon'ble Prince Bukhtyar Shah, C.I.E., to enable him to relieve destitution among a number of his co-religionists, including respectable women in straitened circumstances. The money was judiciously expended, the number relieved being 219. A sum of Rs. 300 was given to the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, C.I.E., for a similar purpose, and was divided among 112 persons. A small grant of Rs. 50 was given to the Calcutta Orphanage, and a sum of Rs. 300 to the Rev. Mr. J. M. Brown for his orphanage at Raniganj. A similar application from the Lady Superior of St. Vincent's Home was not entertained, as it was held to be outside the scope of the operations of the Fund.

20. Later in the year it became apparent that further measures were necessary in Calcutta. On the 3rd September the Commissioner of Police reported that numerous cases of petty theft had occurred in the town, and that it appeared that the culprits had been driven to steal by hunger. He also stated that children had been found wandering about the streets in search of food, and in a state of complete destitution. At the same time, Dr. Gibbons, Superintendent of the Campbell Hospital, commonly known as the Pauper hospital, represented that the wards of that institution, which have accommodation for 585 inmates, were seriously overcrowded in consequence of the presence of numbers of persons so debilitated by insufficient

food and privation that they were unable to shake off the effects of disease, and were incapable either of earning their living or even of returning to their own homes.

21. Measures were promptly taken to deal with this emergency. The Corporation of Calcutta agreed to bear the cost of erecting two sheds in the compound of the hospital for the reception of the convalescents. The Committee contributed the cost of supplying these with filtered water and necessaries, and also provided cots, bedding, blankets, clothing, cooking utensils, and equipment for a population of 200 inmates. It also paid for the extra establishment required by the hospital for looking after these patients, and provided rations and medical comforts for a daily average of 200 persons. The Honorary Secretary visited the hospital on several occasions, and also accompanied the Commissioner of Police to an encampment of up-country paupers in Harrison Road. Most of the inmates had come from a distance—Azimgarh, Mirzapur, Jubbulpur, and Monghyr—in the vain search for employment, and had broken down through disease and hunger. Many of the women were accompanied by children, and all were in a pitiable state of destitution. To meet cases of distress found in the streets, a number of printed tickets were issued through the Commissioner of Police to officers in charge of stations, each of which entitled the holder to receive one or more meals provided by selected native hotel-keepers in different parts of the town. Up to date meals have been given to 1,183 persons in all, at a cost to the Fund of Rs. 151-5-6. Finally, a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been made over to the Commissioner of Police to enable him to forward to their homes, many of which were situated a long distance from Calcutta, these who were unable to get there without help, and generally to deal with cases not fully covered by the arrangements indicated above. The total expenditure to date has been as follows:—

				Cost.					
				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Campbell Hospital—</i>									
Diet, rations, and medical comforts	...	...	...	4,575	0	0			
Establishment	...	...	...	738	8	6			
Equipment, &c.	...	...	...	5,920	9	0			
Construction of sheds	...	...	...	297	12	6			
Ditto of latrine	...	...	...	1,110	0	0			
Platform for the latrines	...	...	...	121	6	3			
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	52	2	0			
Total				...			12,815	6	3
<i>Through the Commissioner of Police—</i>									
Meals given to paupers by tickets	...	...	...	151	5	6			
For dieting, &c., of sick paupers and sending them home	...	...	...	3,000	0	0			
Total				...			3,151	5	6
GRAND TOTAL				...			15,966	11	9

22. The Provincial Committee met in all eleven times. After issuing their circular of instructions already referred to, their first care was to call for estimates from the affected districts. The compilation of these and the preparation of a provincial estimate were a task of much difficulty, as the local Relief Committees had insufficient data to work on, and it was also uncertain what funds would eventually be available. It was decided, after careful consideration, to estimate the possible requirements of the Province at Rs. 30 48,000, and an estimate showing the details of this calculation was submitted on the 6th March. It is believed that this was the first detailed estimate to reach the Central Committee.

Proceedings of the Provincial Committee.

23. On receipt of an allotment of funds, the Committee proceeded to make grants to the local Relief Committees. The first provisional grants had been made on the 8th February, and included the following:—

			Rs.
Champanan	...	...	15,000
Saran	...	...	15,000
Muzaffarpur	...	...	15,000
Darbhanga	...	...	5,000
Rajshahi	...	...	5,000
Nadia	...	...	2,000
Total	...	...	57,000

At first allotments were made to the District Officers direct; but it was soon found desirable to take advantage of the superior knowledge and experience of the Divisional Commissioners, and from the 30th April all grants were made to those officers, with discretion to apportion them to the affected districts as required. The Committee desire to acknowledge the care and judgment with which the distribution was made by the Commissioners, to whose prudence and discrimination the economy which has marked the administration of the Fund in Bengal is largely due.

The net assignments eventually made from time to time to each Division, after deducting refunds and adjustments, were as follows:—

			Rs.
Burdwan	Division	...	28,800
Presidency	"	...	1,40,000
Rajshahi	"	...	45,500
Dacca	"	...	18,000
Chittagong	"	...	18,500*
Patna	"	...	11,44,000
Bhagalpur	"	...	83,000
Orissa	"	...	39,000
Chota Nagpur	"	...	1,36,000
Total	...	...	16,52,800

24. The examination of the monthly accounts submitted by each district, and the preparation of the provincial monthly accounts and returns for submission to the Central Committee, devolved upon the Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. N. Baker. This was a work of considerable difficulty and labour, partly because the district accounts had to be compiled from figures supplied by disbursing agents, many of whom were non-officials, who were not accustomed to prepare returns, and who in many cases did not realize the importance of punctuality. Moreover, the principal return, Form B, eventually prescribed by the Central Committee, involved a very large amount of detail, and was beyond the power of an untrained staff to prepare. A further difficulty arose from the fact that the relief given was partly in the form of single payments, as where clothing or a grant of money for the purchase of seed and cattle was made, and partly in the form of recurring payments, as where a weekly or monthly dole was given for subsistence. These doles were given for different periods to different persons, as occasion required, and it was no easy matter to exhibit them in a form which should be entirely free from the risk of misleading. No special forms of registers had been prescribed in the first instance for recording either expenditure or details of persons relieved, and when returns were called for, it was found that there was no uniformity in the records preserved by local Committees, many of whom had kept imperfect accounts of their operations.

25. Eventually, in July 1897, the Central Committee arranged with the Local Government for the appointment of a travelling Examiner of Accounts, to go round and inspect the accounts kept by the district relief agencies. This office was held by Babu Suresh Chandra Chatterji, Deputy Collector, who discharged his duties in a very efficient manner. He took over charge on the 3rd August,

* Including Rs. 10,000 out of Rs. 50,000 remitted to Chittagong on account of the cyclone.

and within three months visited all the severely distressed districts (except Puri) and several others, recording full and useful notes on all the accounts and returns kept by the local Committees. His diaries contain much valuable information and many useful suggestions, which should prove of service in organizing charitable relief on a future occasion. He also rendered much assistance to the Committees whose districts he visited in preparing Form B. It would have been an advantage if such an officer had been placed at the disposal of the Provincial Committee at the outset of the operations.

26. Another duty undertaken by the Provincial Committee was the receipt and distribution on behalf of the Central Committee of the clothing and other gifts in kind which were sent out by charitable persons in England, America, and elsewhere in aid of famine relief. In all 98 bales and packages of clothes, blankets, and unmade materials were received, of which 17 were despatched by Mrs. Jeannette Hauser, of Chicago, U. S. A. These were received and stored in the office of the Provincial Committee, and were distributed to different parts of India, in accordance with indents and applications. The greater part was sent to the North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces, but the Punjab, Bombay, Madras, and many Native States in Rajputana and Central India received a share. Only two bales were sent to Bengal districts, most of which made their own arrangements for clothing either by purchase or by giving out the spinning of thread and weaving of cloth as a form of relief.

27. A full statement of the accounts of the Provincial Committee and of the District Committees in Bengal and of the Receipts and expenditure. numbers relieved in each class will be found in Appendix D of this report. The following is a brief summary of their principal features.

28. The total net receipts,* after deducting a sum of Rs. 2,75,000 refunded to the Central Committee, were Rs. 22,02,864. Of this amount, Rs. 22,979 represented the balance of the late Bengal Distress Relief Fund, which was made over to the Committee by the Trustees of that Fund. Rupees 15,18,750 were the net grant made to Bengal by the Central Committee; Rs. 70,959 represented subscriptions received by the Central Committee, and stated by the donors to be intended specially for Bengal. Rupees 1,38,900 were subscriptions received direct by the Provincial Committee, or by District Committees for the Province generally; and Rs. 3,31,237 were collected by the various District Committees, each for its own use. Besides the above, the Provincial Committee collected Rs. 28,888 for India and Rs. 2,088 for other provinces, and remitted these sums to the Committees concerned. The remainder of the net receipts were of a miscellaneous description, and were chiefly made up of the sale-proceeds of work given out as a form of relief, such as rice obtained from paddy huskers, thread from cotton spinners, cloth from weavers, rope and twine from jute workers, and the like.

29. Among the contributions received by the Provincial Committee, a prominent place must be accorded to the very handsome sum of Rs. 20,000, the proceeds of a Fancy Fair organized by Lady Maekenzie, and held in the grounds of Belvedere on the 26th and 27th of February 1897. The grateful thanks of the Committee were conveyed to Lady Mackenzie and the ladies and gentlemen to whose generous efforts this welcome contribution to their funds was due.

30. The Sobhabazar Benevolent Society subscribed Rs. 3,050 through their President, Raja Binoy Krishna; Rs. 1,219 was collected by Mr. W. D. Cruickshank, of the Bank of Bengal; and Rs. 1,197 by Mr. C. H. Wilkie, of Graham and Company. The Principal, Presidency College, raised a sum of Rs. 1,710-14 among the Professors, lecturers, and students of the College and the Hindu and Hare Schools. Among other individual subscriptions of Rs. 1,000 and upwards were the following:—Raja Pramada Nath Rai, of Dighapatia, Rs. 5,000; Raja Janaki Ballab Sen Rs. 5,000; His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera Rs. 5,000, in addition Rs. 14,000 subscribed for India generally; Ganpat Singh and Narpat Singh Rs. 4,000; the Raja of Mahurbhanj Rs. 4,000; Messrs. Pran

* The figures are generally up to the 31st October 1897. A few districts have given later figures, which have been incorporated. The final accounts from the 1st November to the closing of the Fund will be published hereafter.

Kissen Law and Company Rs. 3,000 ; Mr. W. Maling Grant Rs. 3,000 ; Babus Srinath Rai, Sitanath Rai, and Janaki Nath Rai, Rs. 3,000 ; the late Maharani Surnomoye, C.I., Rs. 2,500 ; Maharaja Surya Kanth Acharjya Rs. 2,000 ; Bhaia Dirgaj Deo Singh Rs. 1,500 ; and Mr. W. A. Brown, Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji, C.S.I., Messrs. Robinson, Morrison and Company, Thakuraj Gobind

* Not including Rs. 10,070 subscribed for the Monghyr district.

Prasad Singh, of Ranka, the Maharaja of *Gidhour, Nawab Abdus Subhan Ali Chowdhry, the Raja of Gangpur, Maharaja Girjanath Rai, and Babu Nando

Lal Gossain, Rs. 1,000 each.

"Educational offerings," being the result of voluntary subscriptions raised among the boys of schools of all grades in Bengal at the suggestion of Dr. C. A. Martin, Director of Public Instruction, amounted to Rs. 1,238.

One donation, which does not figure in the accounts, was the gift of 200 maunds of *ballam* rice, presented by Mr. R. Zeigler of Backerganj. This was divided equally between the districts of Nadia and Khulna.

31. In Appendix E is shown the sum collected in each district of the Province, whether for its own use, for Bengal, or for India generally. The districts which collected over Rs. 20,000 each were—Monghyr Rs. 34,207,

Cuttack Rs. 28,164, Murshidabad Rs. 27,081, Bhagalpur Rs. 26,661, and Mymensingh Rs. 21,181, while Dinajpur, Gaya, and the Sonthal Parganas were not far behind. The individual subscriptions of largest amount for local expenditure were given by Maharaja Harballab Narain Singh, C.I.E., of Sonbursa, Rs. 10,000 for Bhagalpur ; Maharaja Sir Ravaneshwar Prasad Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Gidhour, Rs. 10,000 for Monghyr ; Raja Ram Narain Singh Bahadur, and Rai Camaleshwari Prasad Singh Bahadur, Rs. 5,000 each for Monghyr, and Mr. J. Hennessey, Rs. 5,000 for Malda. Subscriptions of from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000, and of smaller amounts were so many that it is impossible to enumerate them in this report. All have been acknowledged from time to time in the subscription lists published in the press.

32. The total expenditure to the end of October has amounted to Rs. 19,46,480. The total number of persons relieved was 720,086. Of these, 270,878 received assistance from the Fund to supplement or take the place of the subsistence ration given by the State. Eight thousand two hundred and two orphans and deserted children were supported. Relief in the form of work, clothing, and doles in money or grain was given to 194,678 persons among the respectable poor, including *purdanashin* women ; and 246,328 persons received grants for the purchase of seed and cattle, and to give them a fresh start in life after the crisis was over. The administration of the Fund has been conducted uniformly by honorary and unpaid agency, the only charges being some small payments for clerical assistance, stationery and contingencies. The total expenditure on this account has been Rs. 26,883, which represents a percentage of 1.2 on the net income of the Fund and of 1.4 on its expenditure. The Committee are confident that the conspicuous economy which these figures disclose cannot fail to be gratifying to the generous donors of the Fund.

33. The following sections of the Report give a brief account of the operations under each of the four heads or objects for which the Fund was established.

OBJECT I.

34. The first of these four objects was defined to be the supplementing of the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds. In practice, however, it was speedily found necessary to widen this definition. Interpreted strictly, it implies that no relief should be granted from the Fund (under this head) except to persons who are already in receipt of relief from the State. But except in the fifteen districts, which were officially notified as being affected, no relief works were opened by Government, and little or no gratuitous relief was given from public funds. It was, however, quite impossible to confine charitable relief to those districts. As already explained, every district in the province was affected by the high range of prices, and almost every district contained areas where the crops had failed in whole or in part, and where "distress which just falls short of absolute destitution" prevailed

Definition extended.

In districts of this class—of which, it is understood, examples were found in every province in India—there was ample and legitimate scope for the operations of the Fund. Moreover, in districts which are intersected by the Grand Trunk Road or other main arteries of traffic, destitute persons from distant parts were constantly found wandering along the high roads in search of employment or food. It was necessary to make provision for these, and this was usually done at the expense of the Fund, by establishing kitchens and poor-houses.

In the Gaya district, which was in itself almost wholly free from famine, kitchens had to be opened for the relief of wanderers at Aurangabad, Madanpur, Dobi and Barachatti, where on an average 330 persons were fed per diem, from first to last. At another kitchen in the town of Gaya 630 persons were fed per diem. Mr. Savage, the Collector, makes the following remarks on this subject:—

“The Grand Trunk Road, which runs through a thinly populated part of the district, will always be the place where the first signs of want will show themselves if there be scarcity in the North-West Provinces. The tale told by the travellers is always much the same. They look on Bengal in general, and on Calcutta in particular, as the land of plenty, and as soon as they feel the pinch of want at home, they sell all they have and start for the promised land, too often to meet death on the long and dreary march, or to find that even Calcutta can be stony-hearted, and to retrace their steps to die at their homes.”

35. Similarly in Burdwan, which was not severely affected, it was necessary to establish a kitchen and temporary hospital at Budbud, on the Grand Trunk Road, which remained open for 170 days, and relieved the large number of 26,430 persons, or an average of 155 per diem, the average cost being about 9 pias a head.

36. In Monghyr a traveller's rest-house on a large scale was established under the personal charge of the Subordinate Judge, Babu Karunamoy Banerjee. This institution was very successfully managed, and relieved 10,331 persons in five months. The following interesting account of the institution has been submitted by the Subordinate Judge, to whom the Committee's acknowledgments are due:—

“The rest-house was formally opened on 1st April 1897, and remained in full working till 4th September 1897.

“On the first day no traveller came, as the opening of the rest-house had not been sufficiently known to travellers outside the district. I had therefore to depute peons to the railway-station, the steamer-ghat, and the Patna Road junction to inform passengers and travellers of the opening of a rest-house here and to guide them to it.

“On the 2nd April, a solitary traveller, named Jagesur Singh, came from Chapra, and the number increased to 13 on the following day, when 1 man from Gcrakhpur, 1 from Basti, 1 from Benares, 2 from Jaunpur, 2 from Allahabad, total 7 from the North-Western Provinces, and 1 from Patna, 2 from Arrah and 3 from Muzaffarpur, total 6 from Bihar—13 in all—entered the rest-house.

“The procedure observed by me was as follows:—

“The open space in front of my house was selected as the place where the travellers were to assemble morning and evening. Every traveller was given a ticket under my signature bearing a consecutive number and his name and residence, and all these particulars were also entered in a register kept for the purpose. As soon as the names and residence of one batch were registered and they were given tickets, they were asked what feed they would take, and then a memorandum stating the quantity of rice and *dal* or *chura* and *gurrh*, or *sattu* and *gurrh* to be supplied, was given to the *modi*, who used to deliver the same to the peons in duty, and the travellers were directed to repair to the rest-house, where they had the feed of their own choice.

“The feed was given on the following scale:—

For an adult—

Rice	...	...	...	...	1½ pawa.
Dal	...	...	...	...	½ ”
Potato	...	...	...	...	½ ”
or—					
Chura	...	...	...	...	½ seer.
Gurrh	...	...	...	...	½ pawa.
Dahi	...	...	...	...	1 ”
or—					
Sattu	...	...	...	...	½ ”
Gurrh	...	...	...	...	½ ”

For a child—

“Half the above.

“For those who used to take cooked food, oil salt and fuel, &c., were also allowed in proportion.

"The travellers were allowed two meals only, except in cases of illness, or long starvation, when they were allowed to remain for days together till they were able to move. Sick travellers used to be sent to the hospital for treatment.

"Indigent travellers, who were found quite naked, were given a few yards of cloth from time to time.

"To maintain proper check on the subordinates, the travellers of the morning were again directed to attend me in the evening, so that I might personally ascertain the total number to be fed in the night and send order to the *modi* accordingly.

"I had to do this work twice in the day as a rule, once in the morning before Court and once in the evening on my return from Court; but whenever a fresh batch came either in the evening or at night, I had to do the work again, so that hungry and starving people might not be kept long without food. I used to inspect the rest-house once daily, and whenever there was any row or complaint, I used to go there at once for immediate enquiry and order. For such purposes, I had to go there sometimes even at 11 or 12 p.m. and later.

"The establishment consisted of one cook, one servant and one sweeper, and every attention was paid to sanitation.

"To maintain order and to take the travellers to the rest-house and to escort the supply from the *modi*'s shop to the rest-house, I used to depute two peons morning and evening from the Civil Court staff, so that there might not be extra expenditure of the Famine Fund for these purposes, and to prevent collusion between the *modi* and peons, two new peons were used to be told off for each day.

"The *modi* used to submit his bills every fortnight accompanied by the memoranda or vouchers he had received from me for each day's supply. The bills were then compared with the vouchers and signed by me, and the vouchers destroyed by me personally.

"The quality of food supplied by the *modi* was from time to time tested by me in person, and its price regulated according to the market price for the time being. As the *modi* had to supply everything I required for the relief-house and did not get cash payments, he was allowed a small commission at 1½ anna on the rupee on the market prices of the articles supplied by him.

"The religious prejudices of the travellers were strictly observed, and this was the chief reason why cooked food was not insisted on in every case. In course of time the rest-house relief became so popular that people outside the district and outside the town used to call it "*the Sadabart*" after the religious and charitable relief which used to be given to travellers by the ancient Hindu kings of the country.

"The following statement will show the number of travellers, male and female, relieved every month, the monthly cost, the number relieved, the number coming from the Province under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and those coming from the North-Western Provinces being shown separately:—

NAME OF MONTH.	NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS RELIEVED IN EACH MONTH.			Total number of travellers in each month.	Travellers of North-Western Provinces.	Travel-lers of Bengal.	Total amount paid.	GRAND TOTAL.
	Male.	Female.	Child-ren.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
April 1897 ...	357	65	72	494	231	263	Rs. A. P. 135 14 0	Rs. A. P.
May " ...	691	169	77	877	592	285	269 0 0	
June " ...	1,214	192	110	1,516	895	621	380 1 9	
July " ...	2,470	442	315	3,227	1,374	1,853	837 7 6	
August " ...	3,056	446	336	3,838	1,286	2,552	1,073 3 3	
September (1897) up to 4th.	320	44	15	379	105	274	101 14 3	
Five months and four days.	8,108	1,298	925	10,331	4,483	5,848	2,797 8 9	2,797 8 9

"My thanks are due to the Secretary, Babu Shivanandan Prosad Singh, for the prompt assistance rendered by him whenever I stood in need of it. The Famine Clerk, Asgar Ali Beg, and my Civil Court staff also rendered me help."

37. In Jessore, where much distress prevailed, though the district was not officially declared to be affected, and no State relief works were opened, over Rs. 22,000 was "expended in doles to paupers who would ordinarily have been on the list of Government relief." The number relieved in this way was 17,573, including those who were incapable of work owing to old age and infirmity, women who had no relations to support them, and whose ordinary occupation of paddy-husking, &c., had temporarily failed, and the like.

In Khulna clothing was given to 3,036 destitute persons. Rs. 1,010 was spent in giving additional food and comforts to 3,064 inmates of Government

poor-houses, and Rs. 1,755 in maintaining 1,252 persons in poor-houses supported wholly by the Fund, and Rs. 1,580 in providing for 3,945 starving wanderers. Half a case of Mellin's Food was sent to the Relief Committee of this district from the contribution generously given by the proprietors, and was employed in feeding 100 children.

38. In Faridpur, which, like the neighbouring district of Jessore, narrowly escaped falling within the famine zone, and where there was much local distress, especially in the Goalundo subdivision, money doles were given to 6,172 destitute persons of the lower castes at a cost of Rs. 8,918. Charitable relief was very economically managed in this district by the local Committee, and in some cases the Collector, Mr. Temple, after personal enquiry had to direct that it should be given more freely.

39. In the Patna Division the expenditure under Object I was inconsiderable in the districts of Patna and Shahabad. In Gaya, where it amounted to Rs. 7,786, it was incurred almost entirely in giving relief to wanderers in poor-houses and kitchens, as explained in paragraph 34 of this report. In Saran, Rs. 5,624 was spent on clothing, which was distributed among persons on the Government relief works and the respectable poor; and a small sum was also spent on port wine and brandy, which were given under the orders of the Civil Surgeon in cases of extreme exhaustion admitted to the poor-houses. It is said that there were many such cases.

40. In the three remaining districts of the Patna Division, the expenditure under Object I was on a much larger scale, being Rs. 29,368 in Champaran, Rs. 27,265 in Muzaffarpur, and Rs. 33,138 in Darbhanga. The following extract from the full and interesting report by Mr. Duncan Macpherson, C.I.E., Collector of Champaran, gives a good idea of the way in which the money was utilized in all these districts:—

“The relief afforded under Object I (provision of comforts to those in receipt of subsistence rations from Government) has been under four heads—(a) supply of clothes and blankets to persons in receipt of Government relief (Rs. 23,968-11-1), (b) maintenance of a charitable kitchen before a Government poor-house was opened (Rs. 2,276-0-8), (c) supply of comforts to inmates of Government poor-houses (Rs. 2,025); and (d) miscellaneous relief of a similar nature (Rs. 1,098-10-3). Under the first of these heads (a), the expenditure has been Rs. 23,968-11-1, and this was spent in providing 3,323 men, 8,287 women, and 1,606 children, in all 13,216 persons, with blankets or clothing, or both. All these persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government either in poor-houses or kitchens or in their villages, and all of them, except a number of the poor-house inmates, were given this when the Government relief was closing and the cold season approaching. Every man received four yards of plain cloth, every woman six and-a-half yards, and every child three yards. It was not found possible to give blankets also to all these. A sufficient quantity could not be obtained locally, and what had to be got from up-country did not arrive before many of them had dispersed. The delay was due to a hesitation on the part of the District Committee to embark on the expenditure until the prospects of the rice crop, which was in a critical state until the beginning of September in the most distressed part of the district, were assured and until it knew that its funds would be sufficient. Blankets were, however, given in all to 2,835 men, 5,328 women and 1,430 children, in all 9,593 individuals, the children, however, receiving only half a blanket each. The cost of clothing and blankets together average Re. 1-13 per head. Only an insignificant quantity of cloth was purchased from weavers, namely, Rs. 60 worth, but it has been mentioned in an earlier part of this report that there are very few regular weavers in this district. From petty local dealers Rs. 1,754 worth was obtained. The rest of the cloth had to be obtained from Calcutta, as only a limited quantity of a width suitable for native clothing could be got in the Cawnpore Mills. Blankets to the value of Rs. 12,207 were specially obtained through a local dealer from Agra, Hathras and other places in the North-West Provinces.”

41. In Darbhanga the money under this head was chiefly spent on clothing and blankets, and in maintaining kitchens. Much attention was paid in this district to the tending and feeding of the children, who would have suffered acutely but for the kindly care of the Collector and his fellow-workers on the Relief Committee. The following extracts from Mr. Carlyle's graphic report are full of interest:—

“This Fund, as already stated, assisted the Government in the working of the poor-houses, especially in Khajouli, where there was a large and popular poor-house. People visiting Khajouli were shown the poor-house as one of the sights of the village. They always remarked how stout the inmates were, and though in many places the natives refused to go to the *ghoribkhana*, because they thought it was too like a jail, this institution was most popular

with those who were reduced low enough to accept relief in a poor-house. The figures ran up to 384 at the end of July.

"In Bohera extras were afforded to the poor-house inmates, with the result that numbers of women and children from the country round came in. In the poor-houses Mellin's Food was used with good results. A poor-house Superintendent wrote:—"I have found that the infant children are in a very bad condition; they cannot suck the mother's body, as no milk is procurable from, on account of starvation. They are now getting food by gratuitous relief. Still it will take some time to recoup their health. We cannot supply the milk to these children to nourish them properly. If they are supplied with Mellin's Food, it would help them much, and the poor children will have the proper nourishment. The preparation of this food is very simple, that is, to mix them up in boiled water. I have enquired in the locality that they would not object to use the same, as they will get great benefit to nourish their children." Mellin's Food was supplied as requested, and was generally used.

"One other fact, illustrative of the poor people forsaking their ancient customs, may be cited. In Khajauli poor-house the water was both boiled and filtered; the filter was the simple charcoal-and sand contrivance. The people quickly took to it, and admitted that it was better than the water they had been used to. This was not in a city, but a village where nothing of this kind had been previously attempted, and the success of this scheme is probably due to the fact of the filtering agents being substances that were used by or known to every one and used as such agents in many public institutions.

"The ration authorized by the Famine Code was not enough to induce any to go but those who were actually starving. The additions supplied by the Fund brought a certain number of people who had no home, and found their weekly dole barely sufficient to keep body and soul together.

"In Warisnagar there were 4 kitchens, at which 2,400 children were fed daily. The kitchen at Muktapur had a thousand of these urchins coming every morning for their meal. The Charge Superintendent here had everything arranged as regularly as a strict disciplinarian in a public school could wish. The children came in from a distance of over two or three miles in many cases, each with his or her ticket and dish, a girl of 12 often carrying a little brother or sister that could not walk, and many anxious mothers coming to see their children fed.

"The mites were arranged in rows of 100 each, and sat down waiting for their breakfast, though every one of the 100 tongues that could wag did so. At 10 o'clock the men appeared with the large trenchers full of rice and filled up the dishes, but the children were not allowed to begin till all had been served, or some would creep round from the front to the rear to get a little more like Dickens' hero. It seemed hard to keep them waiting; at first it could not be done, but after a few days they became quite obedient. It was very hard to keep the tiniest from eating, especially on treacle days, for the treacle mixed with rice formed a bait the baby fingers could not be kept away from. On the command to commence there was a dead silence, and every child was hard at work.

"These children towards the close of the famine were mostly in good condition."

42. In Monghyr a poor-house and kitchen were maintained from May to October under the personal charge of Babu Sivanandan Prasad Singh, Honorary Secretary of the District Relief Committee, and relieved from 150 to 200 persons daily. This was in addition to the travellers' rest-house described in paragraph 36. In Bhagalpur expenditure under Object I was not kept clearly distinct from that under Object III, and it must be admitted that in practice it is frequently difficult to draw the line clearly between the two classes. In the Madhipura subdivision the fund was used to supplement the Government dole, and to give relief to those who, though destitute, "could not be included in the list of recipients of Government gratuitous relief, owing to restrictions having been imposed by Chapter V of the Famine Code." The largest number of persons relieved per diem is said to have been 12,400 during the week ending the 5th June, and the total amount spent was Rs. 30,959. In the Sonthal Parganas a sum of Rs. 21,380 was spent under Object I, mainly in the Deoghur and Jamtara subdivisions, but the information supplied regarding it is not very full. The main feature of the administration of the fund was that it was left largely in the hands of private agencies. There are numerous missionaries working in this district, and these gentlemen rendered valuable service in the distribution of relief. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Carstairs, draws attention to the importation of American grain (the gift of the American people, and sent out in the S.S. *City of Everett* at the cost of the Government of the United States) by missionary gentlemen, "which went a great way to save the lives of many persons, and was greatly appreciated by those to whom it was distributed."

43. In the Chota Nagpur Division kitchens and poor-houses were maintained in Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, and Singhbhum. In the first-named district they were very successfully administered by Babu Adhar Kali Mukerji and

Maulvi Wahiduddin, and relieved 1,558 persons from first to last. In Lohardaga, where the kitchens numbered 22 in all, the largest were at Ranchi, Chutia, and Lohardaga. The first named was attended by numbers of children, and at one time apprehension was felt that persons with no claim to charitable relief were taking advantage of it, but steps were taken to prevent this. In Palamau, where the administration of the Fund was carefully supervised by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Renny, clothing, blankets, and *jhulas* were distributed to the poor on Government relief, and also to the respectable poor, but distinct accounts were not kept. Provision was also made for the reception of diseased paupers in the local hospital at the cost of the Fund. These were kept entirely separate from the ordinary patients, and on recovery were sent on to the relief works.

OBJECT II.

44. The support of orphans has absorbed only a very small part of the Fund in Bengal. It is a striking feature of the famine of 1897, and evidence of the success which has attended the relief operations in this Province, that the mortality from all causes during the year has not risen in any appreciable degree above the normal rate. The number of deaths directly due to the famine was extremely small, while those indirectly due, so far as it is possible to classify them, were not numerous. The term "orphan," however, has not been restricted to those children whose parents actually succumbed to the famine. It has been regarded as including also those who had lost their parents previously, and had been supported by other relatives or their fellow-villagers, when the latter by reason of the pressure of the famine were no longer able or willing to maintain them. It also includes children who had been deserted by their parents, of whom there were a certain number. After the crisis was over many of these were again claimed by or restored to their former guardians.

45. The following remarks by the Commissioner of Patna illustrate some of the difficulties that were experienced in dealing with orphans:—

"The relief of orphans gave some trouble, since many children were at first put forward for relief who were either not orphans at all or had a parent living capable of maintaining them; this was especially the case in Darbhanga, where, partly from ignorance and partly with intent to deceive, large lists of orphans were prepared, which collapsed on enquiry. Into these cases personal investigations were made by the Circle Officers and the members of Committee, and the original numbers were greatly reduced. The number of orphans who came on to our lists from the death of their parents during the present season was extremely small, but such cases did occur when the parents, often from some distant place, died in our poor-houses and hospitals. The vast majority of the orphans supported from the fund were poor children who had lost their parents before, and had been maintained by friends and relations till the necessities of the time and the opportunity of outside support caused them to be temporarily discarded."

46. The total expenditure under this head to the end of October was Rs. 13,505, and the number of orphans shown in the returns as relieved was 8,202. The latter figure, however, is misleading. A large part of it is due to the high numbers returned by three districts—Nadia (3,004), Muzaffarpur (2,021), and Darbhanga (870). In the first-named district many of the relieving agents returned all children as "orphans," and it was not possible subsequently to recast the figures. The same mistake has occurred in some other districts, though to a less extent. The Collector of Darbhanga, Mr. R. W. Carlyle, C.I.E., has made the following remarks as regards that district:—

"Very few orphans have been left on our hands at the close of the famine, as in most cases relations are left who are willing, now that the famine is over, to provide for them.

"A considerable amount of confusion was caused in the return from the fact that in some circles all children were put down as orphans under a somewhat inexplicable misunderstanding of the term. In other cases the parents receiving relief happened to have thought it would be easier to have the children provided for if they were brought up to the Famine Office as orphans. In one thana the Chairman, upon an orphan being brought to him, said it would be supported, and after the famine sent away to an orphanage. When this was announced the orphan turned round to the crowd, where the people were who had brought it, and cried for its mother and father, who at once came out and rescued it. This stopped further attempts to deceive this particular Chairman in this way. But other places

"furnished returns that needed a great deal of revision. Several circles returned all their children as orphans. One circle officer went further and returned his widows as orphans, and many put down as such all who have lost either father or mother or were without any visible means of support. In the former case the Babus seem to have looked up the meaning of the word in their English dictionaries, and found it to mean a child who had lost either parent. A personal inspection of the returns of one large charge, which was reporting 1,600 to 2,200 orphans on its lists, revealed the fact that out of 7 circles 5 in one week put down all their children as orphans, the total coming to 1,508. Another circle reported 641 orphans, including 580 widows."

"There are no orphanages in the district except one under the charge of a German Missionary in Darbhanga. He has had a few admissions during the year, and many more applications than he could accept, but does not think the number is any larger this year than the average. But the only orphans which were actually supported by public funds were those in the poor-houses. These have been treated as the remainder of the children, and so no details can be given of their life during that period. Near Bohera two children were found deserted and taken to the orphanage. One died soon after, and its sister, which had been a weakly thing, was quite strong and lively, and at the close was adopted by a famine officer. Many orphans were thus found and provided for before the close of the work. But the number thus given was small in comparison with the total numbers under this head. In Khajouli only 5 orphans had finally to be provided for, but the number on the list reached 115 at the end of August. Most of them were taken by their relatives. The Charge Superintendent affirmed that these were all children who were stated to have no father and mother. To actually check this would be a useless waste of time. It is not a large number in a thana containing population of 300,000 people."

"Towards the close of the work they were gradually disposed of. In Darbhanga a Muhammadan gentleman adopted a boy aged eighteen months, who had been in the poor-house for some time, but the nurse of the poor-house, a woman who had been admitted as an inmate, but was very useful in looking after the youngest children and received the handsome salary of Rs. 3 a month for this, flatly refused to let the child go when the order for its adoption came. The child too was much attached to the nurse. The Muhammadan gentleman solved the difficulty by taking the woman into his service: the other orphans declared their intention of going with the nurse too, but they were otherwise disposed of. There has been no lack of people wishing to adopt orphans. The Maharajah of Darbhanga kindly offered to see some provided for, and Deputy Magistrates, clerks, and duffries have all sought these children."

47. According to the constitution of the Fund, it is contemplated not merely to support the orphans during the famine, but also to provide for the future maintenance of those who are not eventually taken over by their natural guardians, or by charitable persons or institutions. In Bengal, however, there will be few calls on the Fund for this purpose. The true number of orphans was small, as already explained; and a large proportion of them have already been taken charge of either by private persons or by various missionary agencies. Instances of these are given in the extract from Mr. Carlyle's report already quoted. It is not expected that the number requiring to be supported by the Fund will eventually exceed 120 in all. The balance in the hands of the Committee is sufficient to provide for these until they reach an age to earn their own living.

OBJECT III.

48. The grant of relief to the respectable poor, the *bhadra lok* as they are locally termed, and to *pardanishin* women and their children, absorbed a larger part of the funds allotted to Bengal than any other form of charitable relief. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in his speech at the first and only meeting of the General Committee for the Province, on the 22nd January 1897, laid special stress on this form of relief, the need for which he considered more pressing, at least for the time being, than any other. The total amount expended under this head was Rs. 8,84,908, and the number of persons relieved up to the 31st October was 194,678. The chief forms of relief found suitable in Bengal for the respectable poor were—(a) gifts of clothing, which absorbed Rs. 14,841; (b) the provision of work in various forms, including paddy-husking, cotton-spinning, cloth-weaving, and the making of jute string; these absorbed Rs. 1,62,505; (c) doles of grain, Rs. 1,27,025; (d) doles in money, Rs. 5,18,770; and (e) cheap grain shops, Rs. 7,733. Besides these, there were various miscellaneous forms of relief, of local operation, which cost Rs. 54,030.

49. The chief expenditure on clothing was incurred in Champaran and Darbhanga, while smaller amounts were also expended in Nadia, Murshidabad, and Bhagalpur. The first-named Committee spent the considerable sum of Rs. 11,721 in providing clothing for 2,131 men, 7,818 women, and 2,763 children—12,712 persons in all. Four yards of cloth were given to each man, $6\frac{1}{2}$ yards to each woman, and 3 yards to each child. Blankets were not given to these persons. In Darbhanga clothing was given to 2,477 persons, and in Nadia, Murshidabad, and Bhagalpur to 1,203, 525, and 645 persons, respectively. The sexes of these have not been reported.

50. The instructions of the Central Committee direct that work given as a form of relief to non-professional persons shall be shown under Object III, while work given to professional workers shall be entered under Object IV. It is doubtful whether this distinction rests on any sound basis: but even if it be correct in theory, in practice it has been found to result in confusion and want of uniformity. An attempt has been made to preserve the distinction in the returns; but in the present place it is preferable to deal with all relief given in the form of work, irrespective of the class of persons to whom it was given.

51. The chief forms of work resorted to by the Local Relief Committees were paddy-husking, the spinning of thread, the weaving of cotton cloth and silk, the twisting of jute string and rope, and of grass rope, and the grinding of corn flour.

52. In Bankura cotton thread was purchased by the Committee and advanced to weavers, of whom 137 families received relief in this way. The weavers were paid cash wages for their labour, and returned the woven cloth; of the latter a large part was distributed gratis, as a subsidiary form of relief to destitute women and children. Part of it was sold.

53. In Murshidabad, where much attention was paid to this matter by the Collector, Mr. Levinge, the relief of the spinners and weavers of coarse silk was a special feature of the operations. Many other forms of work were also resorted to. The following extract from Mr. Levinge's report is of interest:—

“The relief of spinners and weavers of coarse silk, referred to in the preceding paragraph, is a special feature of the Committee's operations. These persons are among the poorest of the population of the district, and even as early as November last, the possibility of great distress among them was specially brought to my notice. The coarse silks, called *matkas*, are worn chiefly in the Maharatta country, but owing to the prevalence of the plague in the Bombay Presidency, the *matka*-weaving industry suffered an almost total collapse. As these weavers are not cultivators, and have no other means of livelihood, the distress among them was very great. The Committee gave continuous employment to 150 families of weavers (consisting of about 700 persons), and through them, directly and indirectly, to 1,200 spinners. To Mr. Mukherjee is due the chief credit of the success of these operations. He induced the weavers to weave coarse silks in imitation of Assam silk, and these have been readily bought up both locally and in Calcutta. The working of this branch of relief has been particularly successful, the total expenditure incurred on *matka*-spinning and weaving being Rs. 11,423-13-9, and the sale-proceeds of the woven silks amounting to Rs. 10,149-6-6.”

54. In Jessore and Khulna, paddy husking and jute-twisting provided work for 2,235 and 188 persons, respectively, most of whom were women. In the former district paddy-husking was not found wholly a success for this purpose. It is said that many of the women had no *dhenkies*, and it was difficult to get them to combine two or three together to work them. Jute-twisting was more popular. In the neighbouring district of Nadia no attempt seems to have been made to require any kind of work in return for the relief granted.

55. In Rajshahi and Pabna, paddy-husking was provided on a large scale, and in the former district advances of cotton thread for weaving and jute for twisting were also made. The system adopted was for the Committee to purchase paddy, which they advanced to the worker: the latter husked it, and returned a fixed proportion of rice to the Committee, retaining the balance as his remuneration. The rice thus returned was partly used for gratuitous relief either in the form of weekly doles, or as cooked food in the kitchens; but the greater part of it was sold in cheap grain shops; of which there were nine, to

selected persons, all of whom were earning less than Rs. 30 per month, on tickets authorizing them to receive from one seer to half-a-seer above the market rate. The money available was thus used over and over again. The whole of the expenditure has been shown under the head of work supplied to non-professional persons, but much of it really falls under other heads. The total sum expended was Rs. 77,100, 3,098 persons were relieved by paddy-husking and jute-twisting; 3,385 persons received grain doles for an average period of 8 months; and 700 families received relief through the cheap grain shops.

In Pabna the arrangements were similar, but on a less extensive scale, the total expenditure being Rs. 58,536. In the Dussuria circle of this district, where the distress was most acute, the arrangements for the distribution of paddy and receipt of rice were in charge of Miss Arnold, a lady missionary, of whose services the Collector and the Local Committee speak in the highest terms.

56. In the Patna Division, Darbhanga was the only district in which the provision of work was seriously undertaken. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,307, and 3,659 persons received relief. In Warisnagar jackets made by *purdanashin* ladies were bought by the Fund. In the town of Madhubani, cotton worth 2 annas at a time was issued to each woman, who returned to the Committee thread worth $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas, and received remuneration for her labour. The general system was to issue advances of cotton, or *sabai* grass, which were returned in the shape of thread or rope, the workers being paid in cash. Spinning-wheels had in some cases to be supplied to the women. Objections were at first raised by the Brahmans to do any work, but they gave way when made to understand that without it they would receive no relief.

57. In Hazaribagh an excellent system was introduced by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Herald. Each woman received 18 chitaks of cotton. At the end of a week she was expected to return one seer of thread, and would then receive 6 annas (subsequently reduced to 5 annas) as wages. Part of the thread was sold to the jail: but the greater part was advanced to weavers, who wove it into cloth, being paid at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas a seer for their work. This amount was considerably below the ordinary market rate of wages, thus avoiding all risk of competition with regular traders. The cloth thus obtained was partly distributed gratis to the destitute poor in poor-houses and on relief works, while a part was sold to persons just removed from destitution for the bare cost of the materials. The system afforded a three-fold measure of relief—to the women who spun the thread, to the weavers, and to those who received or bought the cloth. The arrangements reflect great credit on Mr. Herald and his fellow-workers. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur has made the following remarks on the subject:—

"In February the Committee set on foot the very useful system of relief by cotton-spinning and weaving, already noticed in paragraph 24 of this report. At Giridih the Rev. Dr. Dyer of the Sonthal Mission and Babus Joy Narain Sirkar, Kolyan Singh, and Satis Chandra Sen at the district head-quarters gave valuable aid. Operations continued, during the hot weather and rains until they were closed in September, a daily average of over 1,400 women of all classes (besides a few decrepit men) being employed during the whole of this time in spinning and some 700 other persons in weaving. Rupees 12,427 were spent in the purchase of raw materials and Rs. 13,044 in wages. Maunds $546\frac{1}{2}$ of thread were received back from the persons engaged in spinning, of which Rs. 1,006 worth was sold, the rest being given out to the weavers to make into cloth. Maunds $494\frac{1}{4}$ of cloth were received back from the latter, of which Rs. 6,157 worth is reported to have been sold, and Rs. 5,098 worth distributed in free gifts to 5,209 indigent persons at the kitchens and elsewhere. It is not clear whether there is any balance of cloth in hand."

58. Cotton-spinning was provided also in Lohardaga and Palamau, and to a certain extent in Manbhum. In the first-named district it did not prove a success, as the women were not accustomed to the work, and the sewing of *jhulas* was substituted. In Manbhum also it was not successful, except in the Pokhuria circle, where arrangements were made by the Rev. Mr. Campbell to provide each woman with a spinning-wheel and instruct her in its use. In Palamau, in addition to cotton-spinning, the grinding of *sattu* or corn flour was resorted to with great success. The following description of the system adopted is given by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. R. H. Renny, to whose careful supervision the success of the operations was largely due:—

"The work of *chhatu-grinding* was conducted on the contract system. Small advances not exceeding Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 were given to the *chhatu-grinders*. With this they purchased barley, gram, etc., which they pounded into *chhatu*. It was ascertained that about $\frac{2}{3}$ of

"the raw materials were turned into *chhatu* and $\frac{1}{2}$ were in husk and refuse. It was found that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the *chhatu* so manufactured sold at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the raw materials; this being so that quantity was sold, and the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ was granted as remuneration to the *chhatu-grinder*. The earning of each *chhatu-grinder* ranged from one to one and-a-half annas per diem. Women alone were relieved by this means. On an average 586 women were relieved daily for an average period of 91.27 days at a cost to the Committee of Rs 305. This expenditure arose from the Committee electing not to realize advances made to women in extreme poverty. The balance of the outlay under this head has all been recovered. It will be observed from the above brief account that this admirably-conceived method of relief was very nearly a self-supporting one."

59. The largest expenditure under Object III was incurred in giving

doles in grain and money.

doles in grain or money to destitute persons of the respectable classes. There were only eight

districts in which one or other of these forms of relief was not adopted, these being Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, and Purnea, and the four non-affected districts mentioned in paragraph 2. In Midnapore, Pabna, and Chittagong grain doles only were given; in 17 districts money alone was given: and in the remainder both forms were employed. The largest expenditure was incurred in the following districts, all of which are among those most seriously affected:—

				Rs.
Darbhanga	...	...	...	1,31,005
Saran	...	...	...	86,793
Bhagalpur	...	...	...	81,461
Champaran	...	...	...	80,374
Muzaffarpur	...	...	...	65,454
Shahabad	...	...	...	25,387
Khulna	...	...	...	17,895

60. The numbers relieved in each district by doles of grain or money are shown in Appendix D. There is, however, a certain difficulty in dealing with these figures. Most forms of relief, such as gifts of clothing, grants for the purchase of seed or cattle, and meals to destitute travellers, consist each of a single payment: and no element of time enters into them. This is not the case with that form of relief which consists in the maintenance, for a longer or shorter period, of persons who would otherwise starve. To use the words of the Commissioner of Patna—"Relief from the Charitable Fund has been of two kinds, *viz.*, relief which was continuing, and that which has been given once for all: thousands have been fed day by day for months, while other thousands have received a gift out and out, and have passed off the stage" In these cases, a correct idea of the extent and value of the relief given cannot be obtained without taking into consideration the length of time during which each person was supported at the expense of the Fund. The instructions issued by the Central Committee enjoined that the number of separate individuals relieved, for whatever length of time, should be shown, irrespective of the length of time each was in receipt of relief, with the result that a traveller who might have received a single meal would appear side by side with a *purdanishin* lady, who might have been wholly supported by the Fund for six or seven months. To avoid so misleading a result, the Committee have endeavoured to show in their returns, under the head of persons relieved by grain and money doles, the average monthly numbers relieved in each district. In all the districts chiefly affected, this has been done. In some others, however, the district returns do not admit of such a calculation: and to this extent the provincial totals must be regarded as only approximate.

61. Each District Committee had to consider whether grain doles or money doles were best adapted to the circumstances. The advantages and disadvantages of each method are thus stated by Mr. Carlyle, Collector of Darbhanga:—

"Upon the first point most Committees decided in favour of cash payments. The reasons given were various; in large thanas, where there were many centres of relief, and but few European officers in charge, the cash system was the simplest.

"In Wari-nagar, however, with four main centres, the distribution of rice was decided upon, as there were European gentlemen to supervise the work at each centre; each too had a kitchen, and by buying large quantities of grain for both kitchens and gratuitous relief, much speculation was prevented. Where close supervision is possible, the distribution of grain is preferable, but it requires very careful watching, as if the grain is bought in large

"quantities from *baniabs*, unless checked by Europeans direct without native subordinates, considerable sums in the shape of commission will be embezzled in many cases. When the charge was too large to allow of constant check by the Chairman or some members of the Committee, constant abuses were prevalent. Thus grain could be bought by the Darbhanga seer weighing 88 tolas and distributed by the Calcutta seer of 80 tolas. This difference was, I am afraid, often considered by the native subordinates too trifling to appear in the accounts. A sharp and unscrupulous man could also always manipulate the native scales to weigh a seer less or more in twenty seers than there should have been.

"The distribution of money on the other hand, even if supervised as closely as the distribution of rice, was open to the objection that the recipients upon going home with their weekly pittance were often robbed. A man who came to take the dole of a sick person or *purdanashin* generally demanded one anna out of seven annas, and this could not be avoided, but often as not the poor soul who received the money direct, perhaps a blind old man or aged cripple, would be pounced upon by the *chaukidar* or *punch* of the village, and one or two annas taken from him. A person walking back with his dole of rice was not open to such danger. The *punch* or *chaukidar* would take enough for his present wants, but he would not rob each of a dozen people of his village.

"At Madhubani Town the Sub-Committee decided that grain was preferable to money, as most of the people were in debt, and when a few native gentlemen were all of the same mind, it was plain that they foresaw how, if money was given, the creditors would obtain it by fair means or foul; they recognised that it was not one of the objects of the Fund to drag people out of debt, but to help them in time of famine."

62. The arrangements made for selecting suitable cases, for bringing the dole to the hands of the recipient, and for ensuring that the relief granted from the Fund should not overlap that given by the State were substantially the same in all districts, though differing in minor points. The following extracts from the report of the Collector of Champaran exhibit the working of the system in a district in which the arrangements were very efficiently managed:—

"As almost all the gentlemen referred to were Honorary Circle officers in the chain of Government agencies, the relief administered by the Fund and that given by Government was prevented from overlapping, and at the same time maintained close touch with each other. The objects to which the money granted by the Charitable Fund was to be devoted were clearly defined; and as soon as the local Committees were in full working order, the Government relief officers abstained from taking on to their lists, or retaining on them, individuals and families of high caste and respectable status, and instructed the members of local Committees to relieve all of this class whom they had found deserving of it. The exclusion of such people from the Government lists prevented all overlapping in the administration of relief. The Hindu castes that were considered *prima facie* deserving of relief from the Charitable Fund instead of being compelled to accept it under Government arrangements were respectable Brahmans, Babhans, Rajputs, and Kayasths, the female members of whose families almost always live in seclusion. In addition to these Muhammadans of good status and Hindus of other respectable castes, who occupied a position of consideration in their villages, were admitted to relief from the Fund if the *purda* system obtained in their families. In all cases, of course, the primary qualification was their destitute condition. It was not difficult to comply with this condition. It is an admirable trait in their character that the self-respect of Hindus of the castes referred to makes them extremely reluctant to accept public charity in any form. The difficulty indeed has been to induce them to accept relief rather than starve, and much tact had to be displayed in dispensing it. It was for this reason that every possible endeavour was made to enlist the aid of non-official gentlemen in administering this form of relief, and that the regular famine officers of Government were not at first associated with it in any way. The comparatively small number relieved under Object III of the Fund—16,108 at the maximum period, or a daily average throughout of 7,003—indicates that this form of charity was dispensed with careful discrimination, and test enquiries made in the villages by auditing officers appointed by the District Committees show that relief has been limited to eligible individuals. At the same time it would be an unjustifiable inference from the paucity of the numbers to argue that relief was not brought within the reach of every person in need of it. The vital statistics of the year show that, making full allowance for cholera having been much less than usual, the mortality of the whole period during which famine has prevailed has not been above the normal. The remarks I have made apply to relief granted under Object III. Precautions of a similar nature were taken which prevented orphans receiving relief simultaneously from Government and from the Fund. Comforts granted under Object I were given only in poor-houses, and under the direction of the Government Medical Officers in charge of these. Donations under Object IV were all granted by Government Relief Officers, who prepared the lists of recipients simultaneously with those of persons who were to receive loans from Government for similar purposes, as will be explained more fully in discussing relief under that head in Part III of this report. All this relief given in this district from the Fund was purely gratuitous. From my knowledge of the working of the measures adopted, I have no hesitation in giving the assurance, that the operations of the Fund and of Government in no way overlapped, and that both systems at the same time maintained close touch with each other.

Relief administered by the Charitable Fund, the complement of that given by Government, and measures adopted to prevent overlapping.

"The main form of the relief given to the respectable poor has been the grant of cash Money does. doles to the families and individuals selected for it. The amount thus expended was Rs. 79,701-10-1, and with this an average of 7,603 persons were relieved every month at a cost of Re. 1-6-9 per mensem, or 8-8 pies per diem. For the most part the grants were made monthly, but one local Committee gave them weekly and other two fortnightly. The arrangements under which this form of relief was administered have been described already in paragraph 18 of this report. The District Committee instructed local Committees that a fair rate to go by would be to give up to Rs. 2-8 a month for an adult and Re. 1-4 for a child as a maximum, omitting from the calculation children under 5, where there were several, and that in a large family an allowance of Re. 1-8 a head all round might suffice. The average rate, as has been stated, works out to Re. 1-6-9, so that the instructions issued must have been followed. I may mention that in the case of every Committee where relief under this head has not been given under the personal supervision of a European planter living in the midst of those who received it, inspecting auditors, specially appointed by the District Committee for the purpose, have tested the lists and amounts shown in the accounts as distributed, and in every case the accounts rendered were proved correct by the admission of the recipients. In the case of one local Committee, however, many of the recipients at first acknowledged a sum less than what was in the accounts; but it was found that they had misunderstood a notice that had been issued shortly before that those who had received Government loans would have to pay up this year; and when the auditor went round next day to correct this impression, the true amounts were acknowledged."

63. Cheap grain shops were opened in Patna, Saran, Rajshahi, Hazaribagh, and a few other districts. In Appendix F is given an extract from the report of the Collector of Saran, Mr. Chapman, containing a clear and interesting account of the Chapra cheap grain shops. These were under the personal management of Mr. Mazharul Haque, Honorary Secretary of the District Relief Committee, to whose care and indefatigable attention their marked success was mainly due.

64. Of the miscellaneous expenditure recorded under Object III, it is sufficient to say that for the most part it consisted of relief given to persons who would have been in receipt of gratuitous relief from the State, had such relief been organised in the districts where it was concerned.

OBJECT IV.

65. The expenditure under Object IV, though large in itself, bears a smaller proportion, 41-6 per cent., in Bengal to the total expenditure than in other severely affected provinces. The reasons for this are two. In the first place, the mortality among the cattle in Bengal, whether from disease or from want of water and fodder, was happily less than elsewhere, and the grants required for providing the cultivators with fresh cattle were comparatively small. Secondly, some delay was occasioned in consequence of the different views held by the Provincial Committee and the Central Committee as to the propriety of giving relief under this head in the form of charitable loans. Acting on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Patna, the Committee authorized the employment of their funds in this manner with the view partly of sifting out undeserving applicants and partly of lessening the risk of demoralizing the people by wholesale gifts of money. The intention was that loans, carrying no interest, should be granted from the fund to cultivators who had come to the end of their resources, and had no security, or only insufficient security, to offer, and who were therefore not eligible to receive advances from Government under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, but who nevertheless were not without a reasonable expectation of being eventually able to repay the money. In such cases the Provincial Committee held that to grant relief in the form of a charitable loan, rather than in that of an out and out gift, would enable the recipient to preserve his self-respect, and was a truer form of charity than if the money were given him outright. The Central Committee, however, took exception to the proposal, mainly on the ground that loans were not in accordance with the purposes for which the fund had been established. The discussion which ensued occupied so much time that eventually, in July 1897, to avoid further delay the Provincial Committee decided to grant no more loans for the future, leaving each Divisional Commissioner to exercise his own discretion in respect of those loans which had already been issued. Partly owing to this regrettable delay, and partly to the disinclination of many district officers to make gifts where loans would have been preferable, the total sum spent was less than it would otherwise have been.

66. The chief forms in which relief was given under Object IV were (a) the provision of work for professional labourers and artisans; (b) grants for the rebuilding of houses; (c) grants of money (and in a few cases, in kind) to enable cultivators to procure seed-grain and plough-cattle; (d) loans for the same purpose; and (e) valedictory doles. The first of these has been dealt with in paragraph 51 of this report, and the second is not important.

67. By far the largest expenditure was under the head of grants for the purchase of seed and cattle, which absorbed Rs. 5,20,265 out of a total of Rs. 8,00,947. It was largest in Darbhanga (Rs. 1,54,438), Saran (Rs. 1,28,147), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 1,02,329), and Champaran (Rs. 87,531; and was also considerable in Nadia and Jessore. The number of payments made in these four North Bihar districts was 23,482, 32,040, 29,857, and 16,883 respectively; each payment represents the relief given to one household, and the number of individuals who benefited thereby was at least five times as great.

68. The administration of this branch of charitable relief, and also of the grant of charitable loans, was conducted through the agency of Government officers to a greater extent than was the case with any other form of relief from the fund. The chief reason for this was that, before the time came for the issue of gifts or loans for the purchase of seed and cattle, enquiries had been proceeding for some time into the applications submitted everywhere for advances from Government under the Agriculturists' Loans Act; and a great mass of information had thus accumulated in the hands of the district officers. This information to a great extent governed the grant of relief from the Fund: and it was manifest that it could be more expeditiously and efficiently applied by the District Officer at first hand than by the Relief Committee at second hand. The Committee are again indebted to Mr. Duncan Macpherson, Collector of Champaran, for the following clear account of the system observed in selecting suitable cases and distributing the money.

"The principal expenditure of the fund has been on object IV (aid given to those who lost all to enable them to make a start in life again). Expenditure on object IV (enabling the poor to make a fresh start in life.) It took three forms—(a) grants for purchase of seed-grain (Rs. 87,531-5-4), (b) valedictory money doles to those who were in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government or the fund (Rs. 21,062-10-11), and (c) assistance in rebuilding houses destroyed by inundation (Rs. 304). The total amounted to Rs. 1,08,898-0-3. All relief on this object (except a few grants to the respectable poor made by the Bettiah Committee) has been distributed under the personal supervision of the officers of Government, who also prepared the lists of eligible recipients.

More than six-sevenths of the seed grants was distributed in the end of May and during June, the time when seeds for the rains crops and winter rice is required, and 70 per cent. of this was given out in the Hardih and Bagaha thanas in the north of Bettiah, where the people were in the worst plight of all. Elaborate arrangements were made for ascertaining who were fit recipients for this form of relief and for distributing the grants. The work was entrusted to the Government Relief Superintendents and their assistants, who were all either gazetted officers or of equivalent status. These officers were at the same time charged with the preparation of lists of persons who were to receive loans from Government for similar purposes, and the enquiries were conducted simultaneously. In each village, in consultation with the principal residents and others who knew their circumstances, a list was prepared of all on the rent-roll, except those who were excluded as being sufficiently well off or able to procure loans from private sources. This list was prepared in three parts:—

(a) Grants for seed.

(1) For *bhadoi* and *aghani* seed.

- (i) Cultivators unable to borrow privately, but from whom there would be a reasonable prospect of recovering the grants, and who had security to give for this.
- (ii) Cultivators unable to repay loans or to give sufficient security, but who have not had to resort to relief works.
- (iii) Cultivators who were reduced to earning a living by coming on to relief works.

Class (i) were to receive loans from Government. Classes (ii) and (iii) were to receive donations from the Charitable Fund, but as it was understood at the time the arrangements were made that the Bengal Committee had approved of a recommendation of the Commissioner that a large portion of these grants should be given by way of loan, instructions were issued that those in class (iii) should be given to understand that they would be liable to repay the grant without interest, when they might be able to do so, and an acknowledgment to this effect was to be taken from them. Eventually, however, classes (ii) and (iii) were put on the same footing, all receiving out and out free grants. The two classes were distinguished only in view of the proposals understood to be pending. The result is that no loans at all have been granted from the fund in this district. Careful

"rules were laid down by me for adequate enquiry by a responsible officer, for regulation of the maximum sums to be given for payment of the grants in his immediate presence, and for the submission of detailed lists of payments vouched for by a couple of leading residents of the village concerned; and I am in a position to give the assurance that the whole of this money has been properly expended on the object for which it was granted. It is true that the auditor deputed by the Bengal Committee reported to it that my instructions had not been observed by the Bettiah Local Committee; but such grants were not made through its agency at all, and what the auditor referred to were a very few cases in which the Bettiah Committee supplemented the monthly dole to the respectable poor by special grants to enable them to procure seed. It is important that I should mention this matter here to correct the unfavourable impression the auditor's report no doubt created. Altogether 16,883 heads of cultivating families have received seed grants from the fund, the payment to each averaging only Rs. 5-2-11, so that the instructions issued limiting the grants to what was absolutely necessary were rigidly complied with."

69. Charitable loans were chiefly given in the Chota Nagpur Division and in the districts of Khulna and Monghyr, and aggregated in all Rs. 1,10,249. The experienced Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, Mr. Arthur Forbes, c.s.i., who paid great attention to the subject of loans, has expressed regret at the decision of the Provincial Committee regarding them, the reasons for which have been briefly explained in paragraph 65. In Appendix G will be found an extract from Mr. Forbes' report, which contains some instructive criticisms and suggestions. The Committee are of opinion that Mr. Forbes' remarks should receive attentive consideration if charitable relief should be undertaken on a future occasion.

70. The system observed in Lohardaga, where about Rs. 25,000 were advanced in the form of loans, is described in the following extract from the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Streatfeild:—

"*Charitable loans under object IV.*—The grant of the Provincial Committee has been of the greatest use in this district. As already noticed in section (b), the bulk of the grant has been advanced in the interior through the agency of missionary and other gentlemen. Rupees 26,425-14 have been advanced in all to agriculturists, but as accounts have not been received for Rs. 1,500 disbursed by the Munsif of Lohardaga, Rs. 24,925-14 only have been shown as disbursement in the statements A and B. Out of this amount only Rs. 4,994 were advanced at head-quarters. The following is the substance of the instructions which I issued for the guidance for these gentlemen:— (1) Care should be taken that loans in no case exceed the actual requirements of the borrower for the sowing of his own land. (2) Loans should not be made to those who have means to buy seed-grain, or sufficient credit to borrow such means on reasonable terms. (3) An agreement should be executed by those taking loans in a form prescribed by me (a copy of it is annexed to this report) stipulating that the loan would be recoverable from them under the Public Demands Recovery Act. No other security has been taken, as the loans have been as a rule given in small sums. They have been made repayable on or before the 31st January next. In the case of loans distributed at head-quarters, enquiries were made by Government officers before the loans were actually granted. Lately when the sowing season had passed, these loans were given for the support of cultivators during the agricultural season. As I have observed in my report on Government famine operations, the great advantage of the Relief Fund loans was this, that I was not bound by strict rules as to their distribution, and was therefore able to distribute them through missionaries and other local sources, thus saving the applicants from a tiresome and expensive journey to Ranchi, at a time when they had scarcely the means to live at home, as well as a troublesome enquiry by a Government officer and a long wait for the money. I found it impossible in this district to distribute the sums placed at my disposal in free gifts, or even in loans without interest. The people are quite incapable of distinguishing between grants from Government and those from charitable funds, and those assisted by Government would have been unable to understand why they were granted less easy terms than others relieved from the Fund, and would have given me great difficulty in collecting the sums due from them. I was therefore compelled to grant all loans from both sources on the same terms. In collecting sums due to the Relief Fund the greatest leniency will of course be shown, and to ensure that no unnecessary harassment is caused to the debtors of the Fund, I propose to collect, as far as possible, through the gentlemen who originally paid out the loans."

71. In Khulna, where over a quarter of a lakh of rupees was advanced, the loans are said to have been very useful in extending the cultivation of *aus* rice and thus shortening the period of distress. The following extract from the report of the Collector, Mr. Vincent, is interesting.

"The advantages derived from this wise step were immense. *Aus* paddy used to be grown in very small quantity in the affected area, and though there were lands fitted for

"its cultivation they were kept fallow. When it was given out that loans would be given for cultivation of this early crop, people were enthusiastic and commenced to till their lands, with the result that not less than three times the land which used to be cultivated in ordinary years was sown down. Even those to whom no advances were given caught the contagion as it were, and brought their lands under cultivation. The effect was that, when the *aus* paddy came into the market, prices became easier and the pinch of distress was almost over."

72. A very useful form of relief under object IV was suggested by the Commissioner of Patna, and employed mainly in the affected districts of the Patna and Presidency

Valedictory doles.

Divisions, and the Manbhum district. This was the grant of a small sum of money, usually Rs. 2 a head for adults, to each person who was still in receipt of gratuitous relief in any form at the close of the relief operations. These payments were intended to enable these poor people to live, with the help of such charity as their fellow villagers could give them, till the ripening of the next harvest, or till they found some other means of earning a living. They also served incidentally another purpose, by marking the end of outside relief, in a manner which was recognized and understood by the people.

73. One special item of expenditure may be noticed in this place. This is the grant of sums aggregating Rs. 50,000 to the Chittagong district for the relief of sufferers by

The Chittagong cyclone.

the cyclone of the 24th October 1897. By this calamity a tract of 193 square miles of country was submerged by a storm-wave; the growing crops over a still larger area were almost totally destroyed; all houses and personal property were wrecked, and great numbers of cattle were drowned. The loss of human life is not yet accurately known, but is believed to exceed 10,000. Immediately after the occurrence, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal requested the Committee to place funds at the disposal of the local authorities for the relief of the sufferers; and during the following fortnight grants, amounting in all to Rs. 50,000, were accordingly remitted to the Commissioner of the Division. No detailed accounts have yet been furnished of the expenditure incurred, but these will be incorporated in the final balance sheet. Expenditure of this kind does not fall strictly under the head of famine relief, but the Committee were of opinion that the subscribers to the Fund would approve of the application of the money to the relief of sufferers from such a calamity as a cyclone; and this view has also been accepted by the Central Committee.

74. The present report covers the whole of the operations of the Fund in Bengal down to the 31st October 1897. By that date, charitable relief had come to an end every-

Final balance sheet.

where, except in Champaran, Manbhum, and to a very small extent in one or two other districts. It is therefore not proposed to issue any further report. All that remains to be done is to settle outstanding claims; to withdraw from the District Relief Committees their unspent balances, except such as were specially subscribed for district expenditure; to transfer to the Local Government the funds to be applied to the future maintenance of famine orphans; and to refund any surplus that may remain to the Central Committee. All necessary steps have been taken for these purposes, and it is probable that the final balance sheet of the Bengal Branch of the Fund will be issued at a very early date.

75. Of the blessings which the Charitable Relief Fund has carried to the people of this province, it is not necessary to say much. It has fulfilled the purpose for which it was raised. It has lightened the burden of suffering in multitudes of simple homes. It has stretched out a friendly hand to thousands who held aloof from the colder and more formal charity of the State. And if the gratitude of these has not been loudly proclaimed, it is none the less sincere and abiding. The donors of this munificent charity need feel no fear that their splendid gift was unneeded or unwelcome, or that it has failed to bring forth its full fruit in due season; for "in charity there is no excess, neither can angel or man come in danger by it."

76. In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their appreciation of the services of the numerous ladies and gentlemen who have assisted in the administration of the Fund. Their acknowledgments have already been expressed in paragraph 23

Acknowledgment of services.

of this report to the Commissioners of Divisions for the care and judgment with which the funds placed at their disposal were distributed; and in particular their thanks are due to Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, c.s.i., Commissioner of Patna, who in the midst of pressing anxieties and overwhelming duties yet found time to actively supervise the management of charitable relief. Their thanks are also due to the Collectors of all the affected districts, and especially to Mr. Duncan Macpherson, c.i.e., of Champaran, Mr. R. W. Carlyle, c.i.e., of Darbhanga, Mr. Earle and Mr. Chapman of Saran, and Mr. Hare and Mr. Maude of Muzaffarpur, each of whom, as Chairman of the local Relief Committee, has been the mainspring of action, and guided the proceedings throughout.

They also desire to acknowledge the great services rendered by the gentlemen, both official and non-official, who have discharged the duties of Honorary Secretaries of the respective Relief Committees, and especially by Mr. Mazharul Huq and Babu Raghubans Sahai of Saran, by Mr. H. Wheeler, c.s., by Mr. J. M. Wilson of Muzaffarpur, by Babu Sri Nath Gupta of Khulna, Babu Shiva Nandan Prasad Singh of Monghyr, Babu Nagendra Nath Sarkar of Bhagalpur, Rai Jadu Nath Mukerji Bahadur of Hazaribagh, and Dr. R. M. Banerji of Palamau.

Lieutenant M. F. Harding, 19th Madras Infantry.
 " G. R. Casells, 35th Sikhs.
 " B. M. Battye, 6th Bengal Cavalry.
 " H. L. Hole, 19th Madras Infantry.
 " W. M. Grimley, 20th Panjab Infantry.
 " J. H. Hudson, 22nd Madras Infantry.
 " R. B. G. Strong, 1st Madras Lancers.
 " S. K. B. Rice, 35th Sikhs.

Their thanks are also due to the Military Officers who were employed on famine duty, and in particular to Lieutenant Hudson and the other gentlemen marginally noted whose names have been singled out by the District Officers for honourable mention on account of the excellent service which they rendered as Chairmen of Com-

mittees or otherwise.

Very valuable aid has been rendered in many districts by the members, both ladies and gentlemen, of various missionary bodies. Among these may be mentioned Miss Arnold of Pabna, Dr. and Mrs. Morrison of Rajshahi, the Rev. Dr. Dyer of Giridih, the Rev. A. Campbell of Pokhuria, the Rev. D. G. Flynn, the Rev. W. Norman, s.j., the Rev. F. Hahn, and the Rev. W. Kiefel of Lohardaga. The Committee also desire to express their obligations to the following gentlemen who have rendered very useful and active service in connection with the famine operations:—Mr. Allen Peppe, Manager of the Chota Nagpur Estate, Swami Akhananda of Murshidabad, Babu Tarini Pershad of Rohini, Monghyr district, Babu Lutchni Pershad Singha of Sakarpura, Monghyr, Mahashoy Tarak Nath Ghose of Bhagalpur, and Mr. E. Milne of Jagdispur.

The Commissioner of Patna and all the District Officers of North Bihar have referred to the great assistance rendered by the indigo-planters, who in spite of a disastrous indigo season, and notwithstanding the great losses entailed on them as landlords by the famine, nevertheless spent large sums on relief works, and devoted a great deal of time and energy in assisting in the administration of relief and in supervising the operations of the Fund. The gentlemen whose names have been specially brought to notice by the Commissioner are Mr. G. R. Maedonald of Moniara, Mr. T. R. Filgate of Bahrauli, Mr. H. H. Maenamara of Ramkola, Mr. J. Rutherford of Cheyten Pursa, Mr. H. Murray and Mr. W. H. Christian of Bagaha, Mr. C. Still of Ramnagar, Mr. F. A. Hudson of Seraha, Mr. G. H. Dalrymple Hay of Jagolia, and Mr. Hay Webb of Muktapore.

The list of zamindars, merchants, pleaders and other private gentlemen whose services have contributed to render the operations of the Fund successful is so long that the Committee cannot attempt to single out any names from among those who are most prominently mentioned in the divisional reports. A list of these is given in Appendix H. To one and all of these, and to very many other gentlemen, official and non-official, European and native, in all ranks and conditions of life, the warm thanks of the Committee are due, for the time, the labour and the energy which they have ungrudgingly devoted to the work.

E. N. BAKER,

Honorary Secretary.

W. H. GRIMLEY,

Chairman.

The 31st January 1898.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted.

GOVERNMENT fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, in mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects:—

Firstly: *in supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospitals, for children, and the like.*

As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

Secondly: *in providing for the maintenance of orphans.*

Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them, and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves.

Thirdly: *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the "purdah" or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of, distress of this nature.

Fourthly: *in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding, through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day-labourer.

APPENDIX B.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR BENGAL.

HON'BLE C. C. STEVENS, C.S.I.,	} <i>Chairman.</i>
succeeded by	
HON'BLE W. H. GRIMLEY,	

Hon'ble Sir G. C. Paul, K.C.I.E.

Mr. A. H. James.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I.

Hon'ble C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.

" M. Finucane, C.S.I.

Maulvi Abdul Jabbar, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Banerjee.

Sir. P. Playfair, C.I.E.

Mr. C. E. Smyth.

Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur.

Babu Nalin Behari Sircar.

" Gonesh Chandra Chandra.

Hon'ble Narendro Nath Sen.

Hon'ble Mr. M. C. Turner.

Mr. J. G. Womack.

Nawab Syed Amir Hossain, C.I.E.

Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, Bahadur, C.I.E.

Mr. W. R. Bright.

Babu Sitanath Roy.

Maulvi Muhammed Yusuf, Khan Bahadur.

Mr. C. H. Moore.

" C. Laurie Johnstone.

Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, Bahadur, K.C.I.E.

Hon'ble Surendranath Banerjee.

Raja Shew Bux Begla.

Mr. W. D. Cruickshank.

" R. D. Mehta.

Hon'ble Guru Prasad Sen.

" Rai Isser Chandra Mitter, Bahadur.

Mr. T. W. Spink.

Babu Kali Nath Mitter.

Rev. H. Whitehead.

Rev. F. W. Warne.
 „ Father Lafont, C.I.E.
 Babu Romanath Ghose.
 Raja Binoy Krishna.
 Babu Chandi Lall Singh.
 Mr. E. V. Westmacott.
 „ E. N. Baker, *Honorary Secretary.*

APPENDIX C.

Circular No. 1, dated Calcutta, the 29th January 1897.

From—E. N. BAKER Esq., Honorary Secretary, Bengal Provincial Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,
 To—The District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner of

I AM directed by the Executive Committee for Bengal, of the Indian Famine Charitable

Resolution :—That the meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a Charitable Fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end, subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received.

Resolution :—That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and the organization there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and resolves that a General Committee composed of the following gentlemen* be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund.

* *Vide list annexed.*

gentlemen named in enclosure B was appointed to administer the Charitable Relief Fund in Bengal.

3. The Executive Committee for Bengal would now request that steps may be taken for the formation of Local Committees in each district of the Province, and for the raising of subscriptions to be administered by those Committees, in accordance with the principles approved by Government and accepted by the Central Committee. Enclosure A contains the names of gentlemen resident in your district who are on the Provincial Committee, who it is thought may appropriately be invited to serve on the Local Committee for () with any others who may be co-opted by them. It will be understood that this list is a nucleus only. The Executive Committee have no doubt that in the district of () there are many other gentlemen of good position who will be willing to serve, and they regard it as important that the co-operation of all such should be secured, in order that the Local Committee may be as strong and representative as possible. In the opinion of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, in which the Executive Committee fully concur, the Local Committee should be essentially non-official in character, and this should be borne in mind when determining its composition. It should, however, be associated with the district and subdivisional officials. This is considered desirable in order to ensure that funds supplied by private charity shall not interfere with or overlap the operations of Government officers, who are responsible for doing all that is necessary to save the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails. The Executive Committee hope that no time may be lost in arranging for the appointment of a Local Committee for () in accordance with these suggestions, and they request that, when this has been done, the names of the gentlemen of whom it is composed may be communicated to them. Any changes in its composition from time to time should be similarly reported.

4. In addition to the Local Committee for the district, it will probably be desirable to form one or more Sub-Committees to deal with subdivisions or other smaller areas. This is a point on which your experience and the views of the leading residents will be the best guide. If you should consider this course desirable, the same principles which have been indicated in respect of the district committee should, *mutatis mutandis*, be observed. The Executive Committee would be glad to be informed what course is decided on in this matter.

5. As soon as the Local Committee has been appointed, it is desirable that a meeting should be called, at a very early date, at which you should explain the place which it will hold in the machinery for dispensing charitable relief, the objects with which it has been formed, and the principles to be observed by it in the discharge of its functions. In this connection, your attention is invited to enclosures C and D of this letter. The first of these contains a sketch of the organization which has been devised for the collection and administration of private subscriptions: the second is a statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted.

6. The primary objects with which it is proposed to establish Local Committees are (a) the raising of subscriptions, and (b) the detailed administration of the relief funds raised by private charity in concert with the local authorities. With regard to the former, the Executive Committee suggest that subscribers should be informed that their subscriptions can be devoted (i) to the needs of all parts of India which may be distressed, or (ii) specially to meet the needs of the province of Bengal, or of any particular district or area. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed the opinion that, having regard to the circumstances of the case, it is preferable that subscriptions raised in Bengal should be applied to the relief of distress in this province, and the Executive Committee desire to endorse this view. Effect will, however, be given to any wishes that may be expressed by individual subscribers in this matter. The local knowledge and influence of the District Committee should be invaluable in inviting subscriptions and administering the funds; and the Executive Committee rely confidently on their assistance in making the appeal successful. The authority of Government has been obtained to depositing all sums received in the district treasury to credit of an account to be entitled the "() Branch, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund." An account should be submitted at the end of each fortnight, beginning from the 1st February 1897, in the form hereto annexed (enclosure B), showing the amounts collected from time to time. Each Committee should keep a register in a suitable form, showing separately all sums received by it under each of the three heads of enclosure B, and the corresponding remittances to the Executive Committee, and other expenditure. At the end of each fortnight, all sums designated by the subscribers as devoted for the needs of India generally, or to those of the province of Bengal, should be remitted to the Executive Committee by Remittance Transfer Receipt.

7. The funds to be administered by the Local Committee will consist of (i) subscriptions designated by the donors as intended for the relief of distress within the district; and (ii) sums allotted by the Bengal Executive Committee. The objects on which these funds may properly be expended are set forth in enclosure D of this letter and are four in number. It is considered that the Local Committee should have a free hand in the administration of these funds, and there is no intention to dictate any course of action, beyond laying down the general injunction that the principles formulated in enclosure D should be observed. I am directed, however, to invite special attention to the third clause of the enclosure, which runs as follows, viz:—"In relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for the Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official inquiry into and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved." His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Executive Committee believe that, in present conditions, the funds at the disposal of the Local Committee can be most usefully laid out in this manner, and I am to suggest that applications for aid under the three other permissible heads may properly be deferred until the Committee has dealt with all reasonable claims on behalf of the respectable poor, and of *puṛdah* ladies and other persons who, by the custom of the country, are unable to apply for Government relief.

8. In order to ensure that, as far as possible, no case of these kinds shall be overlooked, I am to suggest that each member of the Local and Sub-Committees should be invited to take personal charge of a suitable area, and that he should arrange to visit, either in person or through some reliable agent, every village in such area at frequent intervals. For this purpose, the Committee will, no doubt, be able to enlist the services of members of Local and District Boards and Union Committees, members of panchayats, and the like. It cannot be doubted that such visits will bring to light many persons whose caste, usages and feelings preclude the application of a labour test—women of good family and others—who may be in great, though silent, distress. In dealing with cases of this class, the Local Committee may find it advisable to provide light forms of employment, such as spinning, weaving, and the husking of rice, occupations which can be carried on in the people's own homes. In some cases, relief might most conveniently take the form of selling grain, under due precautions, at less than cost price. This system should, however, it is considered, only be sparingly resorted to. Grain should not, of course, be sold in this way to the public generally, but only to persons of the class described in this paragraph, *i.e.*, to the respectable poor and to ladies, who, in the opinion of the Local Committee, are unable to come on to the State Relief Works.

9. The extent and intensity of distress vary in different districts of Bengal, and are greater in some places than in others. If your district is among those which are more severely affected, it is probable that whatever sums may be subscribed within it, and more, will be required for local expenditure. If, on the other hand, it is happily among those which are more fortunately circumstanced, the Local Committee will, it is hoped, recognize the justice of setting free much of what they are able to collect for the relief of more pressing necessity elsewhere. Even in those districts which are least affected by the failure of the rains; the high range of prices must be the cause of some distress, and occasions will still arise for the issue of relief in the manner described above.

10. In addition to the fortnightly statement of subscriptions collected (enclosure B), the statements in the annexed forms F and G should be submitted at the end of each fortnight, beginning from the 1st February next. These are required for transmission to the Central Committee.

11. An early opportunity should be taken by each Local Committee to appoint office-bearers, including a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, who will be responsible for the keeping up of the necessary accounts, for submitting the prescribed returns, and making the authorised disbursements.

202.
ENCLOSURE C.

Sketch of the Organisation which is suggested for the Collection and Administration of private Subscriptions.

- (1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each Province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee consisting of not more than members to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be —

- (a) to receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed "The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897;"
 - (b) to apportion these moneys between the different Provinces;
 - (c) to arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.
- (2) A Committee to be formed in each Province, which will receive the moneys apportioned to that Province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the Province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.
- (3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.
- (4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

ENCLOSURE E.

Statement of subscriptions collected.

I.—Amount subscribed in the district for the needs of India generally, and remitted to the Bengal Executive Committee—

- (a) Up to date of last report.
- (b) Since date of last report.

II.—Amount subscribed for expenditure within Bengal only and remitted to the Bengal Executive Committee—

- (a) Up to date of last report.
- (b) Since date of last report.

III.—Amount subscribed for expenditure within the district, and credited in the District Treasury—

- (a) Up to date of last report.
- (b) Since date of last report.

FORM F.

PROVINCE OF _____

Cash Account for the fortnight ending _____

RECEIPTS.	Rs.	A.	P.	DISBURSEMENTS.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Opening balancee ...				Expenditure under heading			
2. Remittances from Bengal Executive Committee...				1 of enclosure D, if any			
3. Recoveries (if any) by sale of manufactures and otherwise ...	-			Expenditure under heading			
4. Local subscriptions for expenditure to meet special needs of the district.				2 of enclosure D, if any			
				Expenditure under heading			
				3 of enclosure D			
				Expenditure under heading			
				4 of enclosure D, if any			
				Other expenditure, if any ...			
Total ...				Total ...			

FORM G.

PROVINCE OF _____

Statement of Persons receiving Charitable Relief, chargeable to the Central Relief Fund,
for the fortnight ending _____

1. Average daily number of persons receiving relief under heading	I (if any).
2. Ditto ditto ditto	II (ditto).
3. Ditto ditto ditto	III
4. Ditto ditto ditto	IV (if any).

APPENDIX D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

Provincial Committee for Bengal.

No. 1.—Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to 31st October 1897.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
1.			2.		
Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Opening balance, if any—					
(a) Provincial Committee ...	.....	.....	1. Under Object I ...	...	2,11,235 10
(b) Commissioners of Divisions ...	.....	.....	2. Ditto II ...	...	13,505 6
(c) District Committees ...	.....	.....	3. Ditto III ...	...	8,81,903 8
			4. Ditto IV ...	...	8,03,947 9
Remittances from Central Committee—			5. Miscellaneous—		
(a) From General Fund (net)	.....	15,18,760 0 0			
(b) "Ear-marked" for the Province ...	.....	70,950 2 6	(a) Provincial Committee	Rs. 2,289 3 4	
(c) Local subscriptions for the Province—			(b) District Committees ...	24,694 7 5½	26,883 1
(a) Collected directly by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee ...	1,38,900 0 2½	.....	Total expenditure ...	.....	19,40,480
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use ...	3,30,287 2 7	.....	6. Closing balances—		
(c) Collected by District Committees and remitted direct to other districts of the same Province ...	950 0 0	4,70,137 8 9	(a) With Provincial Committee ...	86,705 7 7	
Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—			(b) With Commissioners of Divisions ...	17,900 0 0	
(a) Provincial Committee ...	23,979 9 0	.....	(c) With District Committee	1,61,718 11 6½	2,56,324
(b) District Committees ...	1,19,978 8 4	1,42,958 1 4			
Total Rs. ...		22,02,804 12 7	Total Rs. ...		22,02,804 1
Receipts not intended for the Province.			Remittances of receipts not intended for the Province.		
	Rs.	A. P.	Remittances by Provincial or District Committees—	Rs.	A. P.
Subscriptions realised for India generally ...	28,888	7 10	To Central Committee ...	...	18,669
Ditto ditto other Provinces ...	2,088	0 0			
Total ...	30,976	7 10	Total ...	...	18,669
GRAND TOTAL ...	22,33,781	4 5	Balance not remitted ...	...	12,306 1
			GRAND TOTAL ...	...	22,33,781

Includes Rs. 803 for other Provinces, of which Rs. 628 was remitted to the Central Committee by the Provincial Committee, and Rs. 175 by District Committee of Bankura; and Rs. 63-11-6 for India by District Committee of Bankura.

APPENDIX D.—continued.

Abstract statement of Receipts and Disbursements of each district in the Province of Bengal, including Calcutta, from the commencement up to the 31st October 1897.

[illegible]

Q) Includes Rs. 500, subscription for Shahabad, raised in other districts.

(g)	"	"	Muzafferpur.	dito.
(d)	Includes Rs. 800, subscription for Shahabad, raised in place of Rs. 600.	"	"	"
(e)	"	"	"	"
(f)	"	"	"	"

[illegible]

(4) By Provincial Committee, distribute and sent to Provincial Committee

(8) By Districts and sent to Provincial Committee.
(9) Remittance from the Central Committee.

(6) Remittance from the Central Committee,
(7) Unexpended balance of the Bengal Districts Relief Fund.

(1) Dependence on the number of nodes

No. 8.—Abstract statement showing for each district in the Province of Bengal, including

DISTRICTS.	OBJECT I.					OBJECT II.		OBJECT III.				
	A.—Clothing, blankets, &c. to persons in receipt of Government relief, whether in poor-houses, kitchens, or outside.	B.—Other expenditure in poor-houses or kitchens.	C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poor-houses.	D.—Other relief under heading "Object I."	Total.	Orphans.	A.—Supply of clothing to respectable poor not in receipt of Government relief.	B.—Provision of work to respectable poor (other than that shown under heading "Object IV" as provided for professional workmen).	C.—Grain or cooked food doles to respectable poor.	D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food.	E.—Cheap grain shops.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Burdwan	...	1,573 3 0	...	...	1,573 3 0	...	...	...	...	0,570 12 0	...	...
Birbhum	...	...	...	...	...	120 7 0	...	...	...	027 0 0	...	...
Bankura	...	37 7 9	0 8 0	2 15 0	40 15 3	714 0 0	...	18 0 0	174 4 0	13,230 8 0	...	...
Midnapore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,283 7 7	...	...	...
Hoochly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Howrah	...	...	...	...	...	53 3 0	...	...	...	8. 8 0	...	...
24-Parganas	...	...	...	...	...	50 0 0	...	...	...	885 0 0	...	...
Nadia	...	...	...	...	...	650 8 9	571 0 0	...	2,718 0 0	12,283 14 3	...	...
Murshidabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	293 14 0	...	120 0 0	43 8 0	...	...
Jessore	...	...	...	22,180 13 10	22,186 13 10	23 0 10	10 0 0	4,081 0 3	709 1 3	365 0 0	...	...
Khulna	1,354 3 9	2,705 14 7	7 14 0	1,550 0 0	5,703 0 10	320 8 4	7 15 0	34 12 0	7,159 13 3	19,735 0 8	...	...
Rajshahi	...	247 13 10	...	...	247 13 10	...	81 2 0	75,801 5 1	1,100 4 6	500 1 5	...	...
Dinajpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,023 3 3	...	...
Jalpaiguri	...	...	...	...	...	131 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darjeeling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rangpur	...	...	219 8 3	...	219 8 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bogra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pabna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,055 15 2	2,480 5 11	...	...	...
Dacca	...	53 6 0	...	...	53 6 0	...	...	...	...	6,434 10 0	...	...
Mymensingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,470 0 3	...	...
Faridpur	...	...	...	8,918 5 3	8,918 5 3	70 0 0	...	...	...	3,303 0 0	...	...
Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tippera	...	43 13 0	...	60 0 0	103 13 0	3 0 0	...	...	751 10 0	184 2 0	...	...
Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	131 13 0	...	...	...	13,007 9 0	...	...
Chittagong	33 13 0	...	...	...	33 13 0	...	...	...	4,873 15 3	...	...	...
Patna	...	...	...	1,443 11 4	1,443 11 4	854 14 0	...	...	...	0,514 11 8	1,337 11 7	...
Gaya	...	7,780 13 2	...	...	7,780 13 2	5 0 0	...	17 0 0	3,142 11 7	0,631 14 5	...	...
Shahabad	30 0 0	111 4 6	...	72 9 0	213 14 0	123 7 3	...	17 3 0	...	25,357 9 0	...	...
Scrán	5,024 0 0	58 13 0	...	071 13 8	6,054 10 5	1,292 9 3	...	...	15,520 3 4	71,264 0 3	6,108 2 0	...
Champaran	23,563 11 1	4,301 0 8	...	1,993 10 3	29,858 0 0	3,788 11 0	11,791 7 3	...	673 8 0	79,701 10 1	...	...
Muzaffarpur	27,203 3 1	...	...	...	27,203 3 1	2,587 11 0	...	...	...	05,454 11 5	...	...
Darbhanga	26,083 1 6	0,443 7 3	...	897 9 9	33,138 2 8	1,337 14 0	1,785 13 0	3,397 0 0	42,967 6 10	58,037 10 7	...	...
Monghyr	...	2,373 11 0	...	5,351 3 6	7,720 14 0	25 8 0	10 8 0	...	...	3,723 10 0	...	...
Bhagalpur	...	...	2,503 0 3	2,083 4 0	4,583 10 3	...	323 13 0	99 1 3	28,144 1 0	53,517 10 0	...	...
Purnea	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 1 0	...	...	...	...	...
Malda	...	...	...	...	...	52 8 0	...	...	...	5,743 6 3	...	...
Southal Parganas.	403 7 6	4,003 13 1	43 1 3	16,328 4 4	21,379 9 2	55 0 0	...	...	820 3 7	255 13 0	...	...
Cuttack	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 4 0	12,528 15 2	367 4 3	...	...
Balasore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri	...	...	240 8 0	...	240 8 0	...	13 2 0	...	087 14 0	11,507 12 0	...	...
Hazariabagh	5,047 15 0	2,413 0 9	...	...	7,461 0 3	...	...	20,361 13 0	...	239 0 8	...	...
Lohardaga	...	0,547 13 8	...	...	0,547 13 8	...	...	510 2 3	500 4 4	15 4 3	...	...
Pakaman	1,103 11 3	323 0 5	...	...	1,731 1 8	40 2 6	...	3,164 11 0	...	4,755 0 0	...	...
Manbhum	233 12 0	...	5,453 1 5	...	5,686 13 5	30 0 0	...	...	...	11,870 14 3	...	...
Slagbhum	...	123 14 9	...	...	123 14 0	...	...	...	140 1 0	226 0 0	...	...
Total	51,454 15 7	12,547 13 5	8,493 15 8	60,710 4 11	2,03,511 3 8	13,155 5 2	14,841 12 2	1,63,505 14 4	1,27,025 13 0	5,17,050 0 0	7,733 1	...
Bengal Provincial Com. Mittee.	10 11 3	7,713 11 6	...	...	7,724 6 9	350 0 0	...	...	...	1,720 0 0	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	51,464 10 10	50,561 10 11	8,493 15 8	60,710 4 11	2,11,235 10 5	13,505 5 2	14,841 12 2	1,63,505 14 4	1,27,025 13 0	5,16,770 0 0	7,733 13 7	...

APPENDIX D—concluded.

No. 4.—Abstract statement showing for each district in the Province of Bengal, (including Calcutta) details of persons on charitable relief from the commencement up to the 31st October 1897.

District.	OBJECT I.					OBJECT II.					OBJECT III.					OBJECT IV.					OBJECT V.	
	A.—Clothing, blankets, &c., to persons whether in poor-houses, kitchens or outside.	B.—Other expenditure in poor-houses or kitchens.	C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poor-houses.	D.—Other relief under heading "Ob-ject I."	Total.	Orphans.	A.—Supply of clothing to respectable poor not on receipt of Government relief.	B.—Provision of work to respectable poor [other than that shown under heading "Object IV" as provided for professional workmen].	C.—Grain or cooked food doles to respectable poor.	D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food.	E.—Cheap grain shops.	F.—Other relief under heading "Ob-ject III."	Total.	A.—Provision of employment to professional workmen.	B.—Assistance towards rebuilding or repairing of houses.	C.—Assistance where only money grants have been given by provision of cattle, seed-grain, &c., to cultivators.	D.—Assistance to cultivators by grants in kind.	E.—Loans recoverable.	F.—Other expenditure under heading "Object IV."	Total.	Miscellaneous.	Grand Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Burdwan	456	20,430	1	4	20,430	163	363	2	70	(1)3,206	...	3,345	3,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,698
Birbhum	444	...	...	...	149	...	...	4,491	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,087
Bankura	1,215	4,030	...	...	4,521	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,030
Midnapore	1,215	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,215
Hoochly
Howrah	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 Parganas	Not known.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nadia	3,004	1,203	...	(1)322	(1)5,357	...	...	7,412	...	...	7,156	492	...	...	...	...	18,114
Murshidabad	525	...	15	6	...	...	4,645	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,388
Jessore	240	77	2,535	295	112	...	...	2,782	...	...	6,951	...	...	...	...	...	29,448
Khulna	113	270	3,098	413	1,700	...	...	17,330	...	...	5,425	...	...	...	...	...	49,566
Rajshahi	900	...	...	3,353	601	(1)700	...	8,053	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,540
Dinajpur	(1)350	...	...	339	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	359
Jalpaiguri	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,716	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,779
Darjeeling
Rangpur	746	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bogra	803	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	764
Pabna	2,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
Dacca	(1)203	(1)1,680	...	...	2,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,790
Mymensingh	1,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,639
Faridpur	3,597	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,907
Backergunge	556	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tippura
Tippera
Chittagong
Chittagong
Pabna
Gay

APPENDIX E.

Statement of Subscriptions realized in the Province of Bengal from the opening of the fund to the 31st October 1897.

DISTRICT.	For the district.	For Bengal.	For India and other provinces.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Burdwan ...	7,083 14 0	751 8 0	.....	7,835 6 0
Birbhum ...	5,376 12 6	1,975 11 0	4,972 0 0	12,324 7 6
Bankura ...	3,667 15 0	250 0 0	63 11 6	3,981 10 6
Midnapore ...	4,013 3 0	3,459 0 0	3,311 7 9	10,783 10 9
Hooghly ...	2,310 3 0	476 0 0	763 0 0	3,548 3 0
Howrah ...	1,100 0 0	.....	.....	1,100 0 0
24 Parganas ...	7,130 12 3	200 0 0	100 0 0	7,430 12 3
Nadia ...	8,841 14 0	.....	.....	8,841 14 0
Murshidabad ...	27,011 8 3	62 8 0	7 0 0	27,081 0 3
Jessore ...	7,315 0 0	.....	.....	7,315 0 0
Khulna ...	5,460 11 6	289 0 0	155 0 0	5,904 11 6
Rajshahi ...	19,180 2 3	.....	.....	19,180 2 3
Dinaipur ...	5,713 14 0	340 0 0	3,062 13 9	9,116 10 9
Jalpaiguri ...	2,535 4 0	.....	.....	2,535 4 0
Darjeeling ...	.....	740 0 0	1,385 15 3	2,125 15 3
Rangpur ...	1,609 8 0	11,447 15 6	200 0 0	13,257 7 6
Hogra ...	2,310 8 0	1,010 0 0	.....	3,350 8 0
Pabna ...	8,106 4 0	.....	.....	8,106 4 0
Dacca ...	446 11 0	12,523 0 0	.....	12,968 11 0
Mymensingh ...	14,096 14 6	4,244 10 0	2,840 0 0	21,181 8 6
Faridpur ...	2,260 2 0	270 0 0	.....	2,530 2 0
Backergunge ...	.....	2,244 10 8	.....	2,244 10 8
Tippera ...	3,319 12 2	.....	7,539 7 4	10,859 3 6
Noakhali ...	13,996 5 6	.....	.....	13,996 5 6
Chittagong ...	7,659 13 9	.....	714 0 0	8,373 13 9
Patna ...	14,011 12 1	61 0 0	50 0 0	14,112 12 1
Gaya ...	18,104 12 5	.....	.....	18,104 12 5
Shahabad ...	(1) 8,012 12 7	.....	.....	8,012 12 7
Saran ...	1,055 9 1	.....	.....	1,055 9 1
Champaran ...	8,207 14 8	.....	.....	8,207 14 8
Muzaffarpur ...	(2) 1,746 0 0	480 8 0	.....	2,226 8 0
Darbhanga ...	4,929 3 9	.....	61 8 0	4,990 11 9
Monghyr ...	34,057 14 0	50 0 0	100 0 0	34,207 14 0
Bhagalpur ...	24,961 0 0	1,450 0 0	250 0 0	26,661 0 0
Purnea ...	4,467 8 0	3,478 8 0	1,130 0 0	9,066 0 0
Malda ...	7,899 3 3	27 0 0	.....	7,926 3 3
Sonthal Parganas ...	(3) 16,537 0 0	2,000 0 0	.....	18,537 0 0
Cuttack ...	6,535 4 3	19,871 10 2	1,757 12 0	28,164 11 0
Balasore ...	.....	2,989 10 9	.....	2,989 10 9
Puri ...	1,493 11 6	24 0 6	850 13 3	2,368 9 3
Hazaribagh ...	5,403 9 0	.....	.....	5,403 9 0
Lohardaga ...	8,150 5 4	.....	.....	8,150 5 4
Palamau ...	2,357 0 0	3,750 0 0	.....	6,107 0 0
Manbhum ...	1,627 0 0	500 0 0	.....	2,027 0 0
Singbhum ...	1,513 10 0	2,061 12 0	.....	3,574 6 0
Total ...	3,31,237 2 7	77,016 1 2	29,304 7 10	4,37,557 11 7
Calcutta ...	.....	61,884 5 0	1,672 0 0	63,556 5 0
GRAND TOTAL ...	3,31,237 2 7	1,38,900 6 2	30,976 7 10	5,01,114 0 7

(1) Includes Rs. 200 subscription for Shahabad raised in other districts.
 (2) " " 250 ditto Muzaffarpur ditto ditto.
 (3) " " 200 ditto Sonthal Parganas ditto ditto.

APPENDIX F.

An extract from the report of the Collector of Saran, No. 240F.C., dated 24th November 1897.

"10. Three cheap grain shops were open in the Chapra town from the 29th June to the 10th October. Rice was sold at them at two seers per rupee cheaper than the prevailing rate. The average number relieved at them was 8,848, and included not only inhabitants of the town, but residents of villages within a radius of 6 to 8 miles, one of the most distressed tracts in the district. Their organisation was as follows.

"11. They were managed by a Sub-Committee of six members. The shops were opened on the 29th June 1897 with a capital of Rs. 10,000. Subsequent purchases were made with the sale-proceeds. The total quantity of rice purchased was 6,161 maunds 7 seers 1 chitak for Rs. 29,851-6. The total quantity of rice sold was 6,161 maunds 7 seers 1 chitak. The cost price thereof was Rs. 30,417-12-3, and their sale-proceeds Rs. 24,221-10-3. The loss to the Committee, amounting to Rs. 6,196-2, represents the amount actually given away in relief. Sales were allowed at the rate of 4 chitaks for each child, 8 chitaks for each woman and 12 chitaks for each man per day. The number of persons in the families relieved, 1896, consisted of 4,308 males, 5,139 females and 3,938 children, total 13,385.

"12. The applications for purchase were made to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee in a printed form, stating (1) the name of the applicant with residence and profession, (2) number of males, females and children to be relieved, (3) quantity of grain required by them for their daily use, and (4) reasons for their seeking relief in this shape. The application was to contain a report of a Municipal Commissioner or of a member of the Relief Committee, or of some gentleman residing near the applicant's house as to the correctness of the statements made therein. In case of applicants residing in villages, the report was made by the punch, patwari, zamindar or Government Circle Officers. Most of the applications were again enquired into by the Chairman or some member of the Sub-Committee.

"13. If the applicant was found fit for relief, a pass was issued to him, and his name registered in a register kept by the Chairman, which contained the name, caste, profession and residence of the purchaser, the quantity of grain he would be allowed to purchase every week, the number of males, females and children for which the purchase was allowed, the name of the shop from which the purchase would be made, the number of the shop register, the date of issue of the pass and the signature of the Chairman. A pass was then granted to the applicant under the signature of the Chairman, showing the number of the pass, the name, caste, profession, residence of the purchaser, the quantity of rice he was allowed to purchase every week, the name of the shop from which he was to purchase, and the number of the shop register. At each shop also was kept a register called the shop register, which showed the names of the purchasers, the quantity they were allowed to purchase every week, and their number in the register kept by the Chairman. A sale-book was kept at each shop in which the quantity of grain sold and the price received were entered. The entries were totalled every evening. Another book, called the *Jama Kharach Bahi* (register of receipts and expenditure), was also kept at each shop, in which were entered the quantity of rice received for sale from the goladar by the shopkeeper, the quantity sold during the day, and the price received.

"14. The establishment for the grain-shop consisted of a goladar on Rs. 15 a month, four ehaukidars on Rs. 5 a month, three clerks (one for each shop) at Rs. 8 a month, and three shopkeepers on Rs. 3 a month. The goladar kept accounts with dates of the grain purchased and of the grain given to the shopkeeper for sale. Every evening the goladar took from the shopkeeper the sale-proceeds of the day after examining the sale-books, and gave them receipts for the money. The goladar then remitted the money to the Chairman, who granted a receipt for it. The Chairman entered the amounts in his cash-book, and remitted the money periodically to the Secretary, who deposited it in the treasury.

"15. When a purchaser went to a shop, he presented his pass to the clerk of the shop. The clerk compared the pass with his shop register, and entered in the pass and in the sale-books the date, the quantity of rice the purchaser wished to buy (not being more than he was allowed to buy), and the price. The purchaser then went to the shopkeeper, and the shopkeeper sold the quantity noted on the pass on receipt of the price thereof. Although purchasers could buy at one time the whole quantity allowed to them for a week, many of them could not afford to do it. Many purchased twice and thrice a week and some twice a day. The last class of purchasers generally belonged to the labouring classes."

APPENDIX G.

An extract from the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur's letter No. 1890F., dated 8th January 1898, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

"There was for some time considerable uncertainty in respect of the conditions under which payments should be made to distressed cultivators from the allotments by the Charitable Fund, and in the end an unfortunate decision was come to, viz., that all such payments should be made either in the shape of merely nominal loans, without security or interest, or in free and unconditional gifts. There can be no doubt that a much more useful manner of applying this money would have been in making advances on exactly the same terms as to interest and liability to repay as in the case of ordinary Government loans, with the instruction to district officers added that close scrutiny into the validity of the security offered need not be made, and that applications should not be rejected merely on the ground of the security being doubtful, and with the further proviso that all recoveries should go to a "reserve fund" for the help of such cultivators as might, in the end, be found to be unable to repay their loans from the Government fund, and were therefore liable, under the rules, to have distress warrants executed against them. An enlarged scope for charity would thus be offered in saving insolvent debtors from being sold up; while there would be a distinct advantage in the district officers being able to make advances from Government funds with greater freedom and rapidity (an important point), with the knowledge that he had this reserve at his back. Government would probably also feel itself justified in making more liberal allotments, without fear of injury to the interests of the general taxpayer. Moreover, there would be a decided advantage, from an administrative point of view, in all payments being made in the first instance on one and the same system and with similar conditions attached, to say nothing of the demoralising effect likely to be caused by the inevitable scramble for free gifts. In the result, the disbursing officers found themselves much embarrassed by the diversity of practice which was insisted on. The hope held out of getting relief unconditionally necessarily acted as a direct incentive to the fraudulent concealment of real circumstances, and a new difficulty was thus created. It was not reasonable to suppose that the disbursing officers could discriminate in the rush of applicants, and without time to test the numerous claims for exceptional treatment, and there can, I fear, be little doubt that a considerable portion of the charitable subscriptions have gone to persons who could have repaid, at least in part, without any hardship, and that others no better or not so well off have had to be denied. Amongst the unsuccessful applicants there was naturally much heart-burning. They could not understand there being any difference in the treatment of cases, and it was not possible for the disbursing officers to avoid making mistakes. The fact is that the decision referred to required the test to be made at the wrong time. The merits of each case of the kind cannot be foretold by instinct. The only practical test, where applications are numerous and time is short, is the after-test, viz., *when recovery proceedings are taken*; and it needs, I think, little demonstration to show that if the charitable grants had been used in the manner suggested, the combined funds (Government and charitable) would have gone much further, and with more equal results than was possible under the restrictions imposed. Advances could have been made with liberality and rapidity, and the application of the test at the proper time (i.e., in the shape of recovery proceedings) would have resulted in the distribution of the charitable allotment exactly when it was needed and without any waste. I am glad, however, to say that the greater part of the grants to this Division had been disbursed in the manner suggested before final orders had been received. To those who prove to be unable to repay in whole or part, the necessary remissions will be made; and the recoveries will be used in saving other insolvent debtors from being sold up."

APPENDIX H.

*Lists of Zamindars, Merchants, Pleaders and other gentlemen whose services have contributed to render the operations of the Fund successful.**

BURDWAN DIVISION.

Burdwan—

Dr. Jagabandhu Mittra.
 Babu Hera Lall Barman.
 „ Rakhal Dass Banerjee.
 Mr. H. Walmsley, c.s.
 Babu Monomohun Singha.
 „ Harendro Kumar Ghose.
 „ Banka Bihary Singha.
 „ Purna Chandra Sen, Civil Hospital Assistant.
 Raja Bun Behari Kapur.

Birbhum—

Mr. Rice.
 Babu Nilratna Mukerjee.
 Dr. Fleming.

Bankura—

Rai Bhuban Mohan Raha Bahadur.
 Babu Kulada Prosad Mukerjee.
 „ Denonath Dey.
 „ Binode Bihary Mandul.

Midnapore—

Mr. K. B. Dutt, Barrister-at-law.
 Babu Bhuban Chandra Banerjee.

Hooghly—

Rai Lolita Mohun Sinha Bahadur.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

24-Parganas—

Babu Upendranath Sahoo.
 The Shovabazar Raj Family.
 Babu Mani Lal Banerjee.
 Hon'ble J. Pratt, c.s.

Murshidabad—

Syami Akhananda.
 Mr. Malcolm, of Ramnagar Factory.
 „ Keogh, of Sujapur Factory.
 „ Stenhouse, of Dumkole.
 Babu Charu Krishna Mozumdar.
 Mr. Mukerji, of Berhampore.

Jessore—

Maulvi Mahommed Hadeque.
 „ Apsaruddin Khan Chowdhury.
 Babu Banowari Lal Bose.
 „ Bholanath Ghose.
 „ Bhuban Ananda Chakravarti.
 „ Taruk Chandra Sen.
 „ Radha Charan Roy.
 „ Kedar Nath Sikdar.
 „ Abinash Chandra Sarkar.
 „ Kali Prossanna Sarkar.
 „ Durga Sankar Sen.
 Maulvi Syed Abul Fazel Monaim, zamindar of Mirzanugur.
 Babu Kali Das Ghosh.

* Those gentlemen who have been mentioned in the body of the Report are not included.

Khulna—

Babu Saroda Charan Gan.
 " Purna Chandra Ray.
 " Setal Chandra Chatterji.
 " Bepin Behari Sen.
 " Deno Nath Bhattacharji.
 " Nobeen Chandra Mitra..
 " Bemola Prosad Gupta.

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

Rajshahi—

Mr. Fraser Forbes.
 " W. Renwick.
 Babu Akhay Kumar Maitra, Pleader.
 " Bhuban Mohun Maitra, Pleader.
 " Horo Kumar Sarkar, Zamindar.
 Maulvi Syed Tuffuzal Hossein.
 " Abbas Talukdar.
 Babu Hari Pada Bannerjee.
 " Lal Behari Bose.
 " Bijoy Krishna Banerjee.
 Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Silk Planter of Durgapur.
 Babu Kodar Nath Madak, Assistant Surgeon of Nator.

Dinajpur—

Swami Trigunatila.

Rangpur—

Babu Pria Nath Maitra.

Pabna—

Babu Kali Churan Sen.
 " Gopal Chundra Lahiri.
 " Nagendra Nath Sanjal.
 " Hari Mohun Lahiri.

DACCA DIVISION.

Dacca—

Nawab Sir Ashanullah, Khan Bahadur, K.O.I.B.
 Raja Rajendra Narain, Rai Bahadur.
 Babu Lal Mohun Saha Banikya.

Mymensingh—

Maharaja Kumud Chandra Singh, of Susang.
 Rai Radha Ballab Chaudhuri Bahadur.
 Babu Dharani Kant Lahiri.
 Mr. R. T. Dundas.
 Babu Umesh Chandra Chakravarti.
 " Devendra Bijay Bose.
 " Bipin Bihari Chatterji.
 " Chandra Sekhar Kar.
 " Hem Chandra Chowdhry, of Ambaria.
 Maharaja Surjya Kant Acharjya.
 Babu Jagat Kishore Acharja Chaudhuri.
 Rai Jogendra Kishore Rai Bahadur.
 Srimati Biswaswari Debi,
 Srimati Jahnavi Chaudhurani, and
 Srimati Bindubashini Chaudhurani, of Kagmari.
 Nawab Sir Ahsanulla Bahadur, of Dacca.
 Rani Hemanta Kumari Debi, of Patia.
 Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Rai, of Nator.

Faridpur—

Babu Satis Chundra Das.
 Babu Ambika Charan Mozumdar.

CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

Noakhali—

Dr. Vipina Chundra Ray.
 Babu Jashoda Kumar Roy.
 " Rajoni Kanta Aich.
 The Sub-Manager of the Bhalua Estate.
 Miss Saker, of the Baptist Mission.

PATNA DIVISION.

Patna—

Babu Ram Anugra Narain Singh.
 Syad Tajammal Hossain Khan.
 Syad Fazl Imam, Khan Bahadur.
 Syad Badshah Nawab.
 Maulvi Janat Hasain Khan.
 Mr. Sharfuddin, Barrister-at-Law.
 Munshi Surjya Kumar.
 Babu Guru Das Chakrabarti.
 „ Purnendra Narain Sinha.

Gaya—

Maulvi Mohiuddin Ahmad.
 Mr. W. J. Howard, Barrister-at-Law.
 „ A. Halim, ditto.
 „ N. Shah, ditto.
 Babu Upendra Chandra Mittra, Pleader.
 Maulvi Khairat Ahmad, Pleader.
 The Mohunt of Bodh Gaya.
 Mr. R. Corydon.

Shahabad—

Mr. F. H. Harding, c.s.
 „ E. Mylne, of Jagdispur.
 Babu Mathura Nath Banerjea, Pleader.
 „ Chatarbhuj Sahai, Pleader and Zamindar.
 The Maharani of Dumraon.
 Babu Mahanand Sahai.

Saran—

Babu Audh Behari Saran Misser.
 Mr. F. F. Lyall, c.s.
 „ Lister, c.s.
 „ Coutts, c.s.

Champaran—

The Maharani of Bettiah.
 Babu Krishnadhan Mukerjea.
 Maulvi Wahiduddin Haider.
 Mr. T. M. Gibbon, c.i.e.
 „ J. R. Lewis.
 The Motihari Branch of the Theosophical Society.
 Babu Audh Bihari Saran.
 Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim.
 Babu Ganendra Nath Bose.
 „ Tez Bahadur Rana.
 Mr. P. W. Smith, of Seeraha.
 „ F. Boxwell.
 „ J. B. Wood, c.s.
 „ H. Coupland, c.s.
 Babu Sarat Chandra Chatterji.

Muzaffarpur—

Babu Vishvanath Pershad Mahtā.
 „ Ramji Pershad.
 „ Ambika Pershad.
 Rev. H. Jackson.
 Maulvi Ali Mirza.

Darbhanga—

Mr. Blackwood, c.s.
 „ Smither, c.s.
 Babu Umapada Bose.
 Mr. Wright, of Khajauli.
 „ Renny, of Phulparas.
 „ W. B. Haycock, c.s.
 „ Fallet, of Singhya.
 „ Webb, of Warisnagar.
 „ Simmonds.
 „ Hume.
 „ Coventry.
 „ Rawlins.

BHAGALPUR DIVISION.

Monghyr—

Babu Karunamoy Banerjee.
 „ Sita Kanta Ghosh.
 Royd. B. Evans.
 Mrs. Bien.
 Maulvi Fazul Karim.
 Abdur Rahman.
 Royd. Mr. Macphail.
 Mr. H. Christian.
 Maharaja Sir Ravaneshar Prashad Singh, K.C.I.E., of Gidhour.
 Babu Tarini Prashad, of Rohini.
 „ Lachmi Prashad Singha, of Sakarpura.

Bhagalpur—

Mahasay Taraknath Ghoso.
 Maharaja of Sonbursa, C.I.E.
 Raja Shib Chandra Bannerji.
 Babu Tilakdhari Lal.

Malda—

Babu Hari Nath Palit.
 „ Rati Kanta Chowdhury.
 Mr. J. R. Hollow.
 Babu Raj Narain Mukerjee.
 „ Sarat Chandra Roy Chowdhury.

Southal Parganas—

Babu Girish Chundra Doy.
 Dr. Kelly.
 Babu Chundra Narain Gupta.
 Rai Sital Chandra Nihar Bahadur.

ORISSA DIVISION.

Cuttack—

Babu Gopal Bullub Das.
 „ Braja Durlav Hazra.
 „ Tara Prosonno Acharjee.

Puri—

Babu Haris Chundra Ghosh.
 „ Soti Bhusan Ghosh.

CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

Hazaribagh—

Mr. Olair Smith.
 „ A. W. Wardo-Jones.
 Babu Seo Sahai Lal.
 „ Suresh Chander Das.
 „ Krishna Chander Ghose.
 Dr. A. H. Nott.
 Akhauri Brahma Deo Narain Sing.
 Babu Narendra Kumar Ghosh.
 „ Adharkali Mukhorji.
 „ Kalyan Singh.
 „ Jay Narain Sarkar.
 „ Satis Chander Sen.
 Maulvi Wahiduddin Ahmed.
 Dr. K. Kennedy, of the Dublin Mission.
 Babu Aghore Nath Chatterjee.

Lohardaga—

The missionaries and pastors of the Ranchi Anglican Mission and the missionaries of the Roman Catholic Mission in Chota Nagpur.
 The missionaries and pastors of the German Evangelical Lutheran (Gossnor's) Mission in the Lohardaga district.
 Mr. R. C. Roy, Barrister-at-Law.
 Bara Lal Mirtunjoy Nath Sahi Deo, of Palkote.
 Rai Naba Krishna Rai Saheb.
 Babu Sarada Kumar Aikat.
 „ Durga Charan.
 „ Abinash Chandra Mitra.

Palamau—

Rai Thakurai Govind Prosad Singh Bahadur, Zamindar.
 Thakurai Jadu Nath Singh.
 Babu Ram Churun Singh.
 Rai Kishun Bux Rai Bahadur.
 Babu Khetter Lal Singha.
 „ Nagendra Nath Mukerjee.
 „ Rakhal Mohun Banerjee.
 „ Paresh Chundra Dutta.
 „ Madhu Sudan Banerjee.
 Munshi Anokhi Lal.
 Maulvi Syed Akram Hossein, Zamindar.
 „ Abdul Satter.
 Thakur Jagadiswar Doyal Singh, Zamindar.
 Kuor Laljiwan Singh.
 Babu Moti Lal Sirkar.
 „ Ram Chundra Banerjee.

Manbhum—

Babu Prosonno Kumar Dey, retired Assistant Surgeon.
 „ Rajani Kanta Sirkar, Pleader.

Singhbhum—

Babu Mohini Mohun Ghosh, Pleader.
 „ Nalini Mohun Sanjal.
 „ Kali Pada Ghosh.

No. 1656.

FROM

E. N. BAKER, Esq., C.S.,

*Honorary Secretary, Bengal Branch,**Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

To

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,

CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

Custom House, Calcutta, the 24th February 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the final balance sheet of the, Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, showing the receipts and expenditure from the 1st November to the final closing of the fund. All balances belonging to the General Fund have now been called in, and the balance now in my hands is R82,069-6-6. A cheque for this amount is enclosed herewith, and an acknowledgment is requested.

2. If any further sums* should hereafter be received, they will be forwarded to you in due course.

3. As I have now no funds left, it will be necessary for the Central Committee to remit to me from time to time any sums that may be required for expenditure in despatching bales of clothing to their destination.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

E. N. BAKER,

Honorary Secretary.

* NOTE.—A further sum of R164-13-3 has since been returned to the Central Committee.

H. E. M. J.,—28-2-98.

Final Balance Sheet.

(1) Includes Rs25,000 remitted to the Government of Bengal for future maintenance of orphans.
(2) Includes Rs50,000 for relief of sufferers from the Chittagong cyclone.
(3) This amount is herewith remitted to the Central Committee by cheque on the Bank of Bengal.

E. N. BAKER,
*Honorary Secretary,
Bengal Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

BOMBAY PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

Report on the Operations of the Fund in the Bombay Presidency.

PART I.

Of the 125,000 square miles which constitute the area of British territory in the Bombay Presidency, some 58,000 square miles have been affected by famine, the tract of country involved embracing Khandeish, the Deccan, and the Southern Mahratta country. The great bulk of the people inhabiting this region depend directly or indirectly on the production of the land for their means of livelihood. Important trade centres are few and far between, and local artisans, such as the makers of agricultural implements and of domestic utensils, the weavers of cloth and the potters look to the local cultivator as the principal buyer of their wares. When, therefore, he suffers scarcity or famine the village handicraftsmen are at once similarly affected. Scarcity and famine in India are both a matter of water. The ripening influence of the sun never fails, but though excess of rain may cause scarcity by drowning the germinating seed or rotting the growing crops in the ground, it is almost invariably a deficiency of rainfall which is responsible for famine. Parts of the tract of country under review are every year peculiarly liable to famine, both the south-west and north-east monsoons passing over them without discharging the life-giving fluid, and throughout the area the rainfall is usually capricious and uncertain. In the Northern Districts, bordering on the Ghats, the rainfall early in the south-west monsoon of 1896 was sufficient and in places excessive, but elsewhere, and specially towards the south and east, it was below the average. And by the end of August—a full month to six weeks before the usual time—the south-west monsoon was practically over, the subsequent light and partial showers being too scanty to prevent the growing crops from withering. The people lived in hopes from day to day that since there was some little rain here and there, any moment might bring relief in the shape of copious showers. But they were doomed to disappointment, no considerable fall occurring until towards the end of November, when the mischief was done as far as the kharif crops were concerned, though it enabled a good start to be made with the rabi or cold weather crops.

The state of affairs had been watched with anxiety by His Excellency the Governor and the Officers of the affected districts. Test works were already being opened by the authorities and arrangements made to meet a period of distress and scarcity. The situation, however, did not develop sufficiently until December to admit of general recognition that a widespread and severe famine was threatening in the immediate future over nearly half the Presidency, and that private charity on a large scale would be necessary to assist the public measures of relief.

His Excellency, anticipating that troubles were ahead, had kept in touch with some few of the leading citizens of Bombay, to whom he explained his views of the situation, and acting on his advice and suggestions, on the 10th December 1896 the first overt act took place to enlist the sympathies of the public. On that day in the Hall of the Municipal Corporation a preliminary meeting was held, at which a resolution was passed formally inviting His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay, to preside at a meeting to be convened by the Sheriff and to be held in the Town Hall for the purpose of considering what measures of relief should be undertaken, and a provisional Committee was formed and provisional Secretaries were appointed to complete all arrangements.

A week later—the 17th December—a large and representative gathering took place at the Town Hall in response to the Sheriff's invitation, His Excellency presiding on the occasion, when a resolution was carried unanimously to the effect "that in the opinion of this meeting the time has now come when measures must be adopted for

inviting further subscriptions to alleviate the sufferings caused by the scarcity which now prevails in many parts of the Presidency." A very large General Committee was forthwith formed with authority to constitute an Executive Committee from among them, and Honorary Secretaries were nominated to carry out the objects of the meeting. Subsequently at a meeting of the General Committee held at the Municipal Council Hall on the 22nd December, Mr. George Cotton, Sheriff of Bombay, in the Chair, the following Executive Committee was appointed:—

General W. F. Gatacre, C.B., D.S.O.
 The Hon. Mr. A. F. Beaufort.
 G. Cotton, Esq.
 G. Lund, Esq.
 The Hon. Mr. N. N. Wadia, C.I.E.
 S. M. Moses, Esq.
 Dr. Cawasjee Hormusjee, G.G.M.C.
 Dinshaw Eduljee Watcha, Esq.
 The Hon. Mr. A. M. Dharamsi, B.A., LL.B.
 Sulleman A. Wahed, Esq.
 Ghellabhai Haridass, Esq.
 Govindjee Thackersey Mooljee, Esq.
 The Hon. Mr. J. U. Yajnik.
 Harkisondass Narotamdass, Esq.
 Vijbhukandass Atmaram, Esq.
 Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna, L.M.
 Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. Waters.
 The Revd. D. Mackichan, M.A., D.D.

At the same time, the following Secretaries and Treasurers were nominated: Messrs. G. Cotton, Ghellabhai Haridass, Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. Waters, Dr. Cawasjee Hormusjee and the Hon. Mr. N. N. Wadia and A. M. Dharamsi, with the Hon. Mr. Wadia and Mr. Bezoujee N. Capadia as keepers of the minutes of proceedings and the accounts of the Fund.

A liberal response met the appeal of the Bombay Presidency Famine Fund, as it was called, and the Honorary Secretaries, who entered into their duties with much energy, were soon in possession of a considerable sum of money.

The best agency for distributing the charity was naturally the object of grave consideration. The Collectors of the affected Districts were already applying the measures of relief sanctioned by Government, and to avoid overlapping or misapplication, it was determined to invite these gentlemen to be our almoners, and it is to them and to those associated with them that the subscribers are deeply indebted for the careful and judicious expenditure of our funds.

Meanwhile, other provinces were feeling the pinch of famine, and, relief having become an Imperial question, the Indian Charitable Relief Fund was founded with the following declared objects:—

- I.—To supplement the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts—whether of food or clothing—for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospital, for children, and the like.
- II.—To provide for the maintenance of orphans.
- III.—To relieve the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of, the reality of destitution which is to be relieved.
- IV.—To restore to their original position, when acute distress has subsided, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and to give them a fresh start in life.

As it was not deemed desirable to have two organizations for the same work in this Presidency, a meeting of subscribers took place at the Secretariat on the 15th February 1897, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor, when it was resolved that the Bombay Presidency Famine Fund be merged in the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund and be known as the

Amalgamation of the Bombay Presidency Famine Fund with the I. F. C. R. Fund.

Bombay Branch thereof. Immediately after this meeting, Mr. Cotton submitted to his co-secretaries a memorandum for distribution of a lakh of rupees amongst the affected districts, and, the scheme being approved, the remittances were forthwith made.

The Bombay Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was now fairly started, and, so far as the public is concerned, the centre of interest shifts from Bombay to the Famine Districts themselves. These will be treated separately later on, but in the meantime it is our duty to deal with somewhat drier material in the form of figures and statistics.

PART II.

RECEIPTS—

	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
From the Central Executive Committee	...			13,64,250	0	0
Local subscriptions from this province	...					
Bombay	1,58,268	4	7			
Bhownugger	26,857	0	0			
Aden	18,791	8	9			
Kathiawar	19,800	11	3			
Khandeish	11,500	11	1			
Ahmednagar	10,104	12	0			
Ahmedabad	8,000	0	0			
Bijapore	6,385	0	0			
Belgaum	6,389	8	0			
Porebunder	3,894	14	5			
Broach	3,018	5	0			
Savantwadi	2,133	12	0			
Panchmahals and Rewa Kantha	7,874	13	6			
Thana	1,175	0	0			
Khaira	2,590	0	0			
Mahikantha	1,734	0	0			
Sholapore	1,460	0	0			
Sattara	1,190	0	0			
Baroda	1,050	0	0			
Lathi State	500	0	0			
Kolaba	375	12	0			
Karwar	1,200	0	0			
Dhollera	319	0	0			
Wudwan	460	0	0			
Veerumgaum	305	0	0			
Ranpur	241	0	0			
Poona	190	5	6			
Sholapore (From another District)	10	0	0			
				2,95,819	6	1
TOTAL				16,60,069	6	1

The generous help the Central Executive Committee was able to give, forming as it did some 82 per cent. of the total sum we have had to deal with, was of inestimable assistance, and we join in grateful acknowledgments to the subscribers.

Our local subscriptions have received due acknowledgment from time to time through the newspapers, but in this connection we are not unmindful of the good work done by local collectors at what, though doubtless a labour of love, must have involved considerable personal inconvenience and toil. Space does not permit of our recording their names, but their devotion and assistance we thankfully acknowledge and highly appreciate. In addition to the contributions in cash which have reached us from the public, there have been many generous gifts of grain, clothing and fodder for cattle which find no record in our returns. To these benefactors we, on behalf of the recipients, also tender our thanks.

Expenditure.

NOTE.—Owing to change in personnel in one or two Talukas and the advent of plague, the District Officers at Nasik have been unable as yet to furnish complete returns up to the 31st October. It must be understood, therefore, that any amounts of expenditure appearing in the accompanying account forms under the head of Nasik are approximate only, and that the statistics dealt with herein are affected by the absence of the returns from this district, insomuch that, although the total expenditure under each of the four primary Objects of the Fund includes the amount estimated to have been actually spent at Nasik by the 31st October, particulars of the proportions disbursed under the various sub-headings are not available.

Object I.

To supplement the subsistence rations, which alone are provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts—whether of food or of clothing—for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospital, for children, and the like.

It is to be observed that the heads of expenditure under Objects I and III are not dissimilar, but whereas the former provides for measures of assistance to those who have already come under Government relief, Object III applies to those who have had only the Fund to look to for succour. Although, therefore, the same classes of expenditure have to be dealt with more or less under Objects I and III, there is the difference to which we have drawn attention between them.

The total sum spent on Object I aggregates Rs 1,53,090-12-4, the cost of clothing amounting to more than half the amount.

- (a) The resources of the people having been exhausted in providing food to keep body and soul together, most of them had, before they became subjects of Government relief, not been in a position to replenish their scanty wardrobes and spend the one or two rupees which ordinarily would have sufficed to clothe them and their families. The result was that in many instances a state of almost nudity followed on semi-starvation. During our operations, articles of clothing to persons in receipt of Government relief were provided for 109,531 men, women, and children at a cost of Rs 1,487-6-1. Of these, 207 persons in the Sholapur District and 303 in the Poona District were the recipients of articles sent out from Home. It is recorded that several of the garments of European cut, made doubtless at considerable trouble and expense to the generous donors at Home, had to be materially altered before they could be worn. Such things as waistcoats and coats of all sizes can always be made use of, but it may be as well to mention that the most useful of all gifts in the shape of clothing for ordinary Hindu country people are strips of cotton cloth, 8 yards of which, 36" to 40" wide, will clothe an ordinary sized woman, whilst 4½ yards, 40" to 45" wide, will clothe an ordinary sized man. Without the aid of thread and needle or the addition of buttons, hooks and eyes, the villagers of both sexes can dress themselves according to their wants quite decently and comfortably with materials of the dimensions given. In Bijapur and Sholapur the demand on account of clothing was greatest, over 63 per cent. of the total relieved being in these Districts. Purchases of clothing consisting for the most part of cotton cloth were effected locally at current rates, and the money thus put in circulation was a great help to the localities where it was spent. The weaving industry, which is carried on throughout the affected districts more or less to supply local requirements, was helped to the extent of Rs 40,635-0-0 by purchases on account of the Fund under Object I. How the weavers were thus enabled to keep at work will be found explained in Mr. Sheppard's Report on Bijapur (*vide* Part III) and arrangements of a somewhat similar nature to those therein specified obtained elsewhere. Further purchases were made from petty shop-keepers—a class which necessarily suffers greatly in such unhappy times—to the extent of about Rs 27,000-0-0, and cloth merchants were also patronised at a cost of some Rs 7,000-0-0 only. In addition to direct gifts of clothing, 2,613 persons had money allowances totaling Rs 3,057-4-0 to enable them to purchase their requirements.

- (b) In nearly all our Districts Government opened poor-houses and kitchens, or both, to help those who from old age, debility, tender years, or other causes were unable to labour on the test works and so earn money. The necessities supplied by Government to these institutions were ordinarily adequate, but it can be readily understood that cases arose from time to time for which Govern-

ment could make no provision, and it is here that another sphere of usefulness opened up for us. The total expenditure under this head amounts to Rs. 7,271, of which a portion was spent in supplying little comforts such as milk, lime-juice, vegetables, medical luxuries and various other small items, to a number of poor people who were sadly in want of them. Over Rs. 5,000-0-0 of the amount disbursed under this heading was spent in Satara, where kitchens were opened under the auspices of the Fund in two out-of-the-way places where there was a good deal of suffering. These kitchens were started at the end of May and from that time up to the end of October nearly 20,000 people were fed there, the highest number in one day being 782. In Khandeish, too, Rs. 1,000-0-0 were spent on a similar object, and the relief thus afforded proved a great boon to the people.

- (c) (i)—Another outlet for our charity was in supplementing the wage on famine relief works by small grants of money or food. It not infrequently happened that people when first coming on the works, emaciated and weak by privation, were in need of something more than they could obtain in the ordinary way, and such exceptional cases were carefully gone into on their merits and small sums awarded. A total of Rs. 9,556-13-4 was expended in this way on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poor-houses. Sholapur in little over four months spent Rs. 4,000-0-0 odd, and Bombay in a little over two months Rs. 4,600-0-0, the other payments making up the balance being at Ahmednugger and Bijapur.
- (ii)—In supplementing the Government dole in cases of gratuitous relief, Sholapur spent Rs. 1,378-12-6, and Ahmednugger Rs. 95-3-6.
- (iii)—In providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works Rs. 9,950-0-11 were distributed, Sholapur, Bijapur and Ahmednugger practically taking the whole amount.
- (d) Other relief under Object I amounts to Rs. 38,845-3-8, and was disbursed in a number of ways on items which hardly come under the sub-headings previously dealt with. In Bijapur, for instance, Rs. 4,649-7-11 over a period of seven months was expended in casual donations to destitute poor, numbering 3,937 persons. In Sholapur it was only necessary to expend Rs. 18-10-10 for the purpose of sending 26 men to relief works, but at Ahmednugger, where the relief works were further off, it cost Rs. 3,410-10-8 to assist 2,602 persons in all to go from the poorhouses to the relief works and from the relief works to their villages and so on. In Khandeish it was found convenient to put no less than Rs. 21,674-11-6 under this head, it being somewhat difficult to differentiate between Government-assisted people and others. From April to October grain distributed by the Khandeish Committees to the aged, infirm, blind, etc., absorbed Rs. 9,579-1-1 in the relief of 6,232 persons, and money grants to 3,173 persons similarly afflicted took Rs. 8,086-14-1. The test works in this District consisted of breaking stones for road-metal, and in the blistering sun of the hot weather, with the land parched to a dull brown, little cover available, and no vegetation worth speaking of anywhere about, the poor folk engaged in this labour found their greatest trouble from the blazing sun in which their work had to be carried out. The thing they most desired at the time was shade, and although it would appear at first sight that an expenditure from our funds to protect these poor people from the sun's rays was hardly of that personal nature which would come under the heading of "small comforts," no exception can be taken to the action of the Collector

in providing some 20,000 people with the protection they so urgently required at a cost of Rs 4,008-12-4. The shades he permitted to be constructed were mostly of cloth stretched on bamboos, and when the hot weather was over and the rains broke, the cloth was used for clothing and bedding, and the bamboos and bamboo matting were converted into cash, the proceeds being devoted for the supply of clothing. Satara spent Rs 780-11-0 on miscellaneous items such as clothing poor people, sending them to relief works, and giving them the wherewithal to return to their villages. In the Poona District an expenditure of Rs 7,326-1-9 was incurred in supplementary measures of relief. For instance 2,778 wanderers and paupers received from April to October the sum of Rs 2,666-2-5. It cost Rs 652-3-6 to send 796 persons back to their villages after closing up the relief works, whilst the purchase of grain for poor persons and some miscellaneous grants in cash absorbed the balance of Rs 4,007-11-10. In Belgaum, during a period of four months, 94 famine-stricken patients were fed in the hospital at a cost of Rs 349-0-6, and five destitute persons on one occasion were fed for Rs 0-11-3. In Dharwar, from the end of May to the end of October, grain was provided for some 819 persons at a cost of Rs 635-2-3.

Object II.

To provide for the maintenance of orphans.

Great as has been the distress over the affected districts of the Bombay Presidency, the timely precautions of Government and the supplemental aid from our funds have prevented almost any loss of life directly attributable to famine. As a consequence, the provision for waifs and strays deprived of their natural protectors and guardians has not been extensive. Of course, instances of children being left orphans have not been uncommon, but, as our interest in such children is confined to those who have arrived at this condition by famine only, the number has not been large, and in the great majority of cases relatives or friends have come forward and claimed the little ones. In several Districts, therefore, it is estimated that no permanent provision for orphans will be necessary. Our expenditure on their account has amounted to Rs 13,083-3-7, of which Rs 2,583-3-7 represents the total expenditure on those children who have already left our care. In Sholapur a grant of Rs 500-0-0 was made to the foundling institution at Pandharpur. In Ahmednagar Rs 2,000-0-0 has been reserved to meet possible charges under this head, and at Nasik Rs 10,000-0-0 has been remitted to the orphanage there by the local Committee for the support and education of 30 orphans.

Object III.

To relieve the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied, as it must be, by official enquiry into, and some kind of test of, the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.

In Object III we deal with classes of persons who from one cause or another have not been able to avail themselves of relief from Government under the rules provided for the purpose by the State. In Ahmednagar and Poona 260 persons under this category were given articles of clothing sent out from Home, and we provided 39,507 poor folk with various articles of apparel and blankets. Our total expenditure under Object III amounts to Rs 1,60,998-12-3, of which clothing absorbs Rs 33,655-8-0. Two hundred and eighty-four persons received Rs 579-12-5 to purchase their requirements, and, as in Object I, we paid to—

	R	a.	p.
Local weavers	16,330	10	4
Petty Shop-keepers	7,854	3	6
Large Cloth Dealers	113	8	4
or cotton goods and blankets.			

(C) In grain or cooked food our doles to respectable poor amounted to **Rs 33,704-0-9**. Nearly all the famine districts furnished some measure of relief in this direction, and, in addition to these gifts, sums of money, aggregating **Rs 73,182-13-1**, were distributed (D) in cash to respectable poor for purchase of food. The distribution of this relief involved very heavy work on the part of all those officers who made it. For it was necessary to obtain by personal enquiry information as to the merits of each case, and very frequently, where Mahomedans were concerned, to actually go into their houses and find how they were circumstanced in order to give them the assistance they badly wanted, but would not ask for. That this work was well and carefully done is recognised by all parties, and many lives have doubtless been saved by the fatherly solicitude extended to the people in this way.

(E) One of the most useful forms of relief has been the establishment of cheap grain shops. Like most people who have goods to sell grain dealers were not above embracing an opportunity of putting up prices and feathering their own nests at the expense of their poorer neighbours. And when the district authorities came to the conclusion that local rates for food-grains were largely in excess of what the circumstances demanded, it was customary, by the help of charitably disposed individuals, to make arrangements to import food-supplies from outside and sell them at such rates as fitted in with the resources of the people, limiting of course the quantities which any one person could obtain. It was needful to look very sharply after the carrying out of the restrictions imposed, for poverty and ignorance tend to sharpen the intellect on financial matters and many were the dodges attempted, and sometimes successfully carried out, to secure at below current rates more than a due share of the supplies the cheap grain shops made available. To meet the loss on these transactions, our contributions come to **Rs 18,491-3-0**, and the expenditure is confined to Bijapur, Sholapur, Ahmednagar and Nasik only. It must not be understood, however, that these were the only places where cheap grain shops were to be found, for we hear of them in several places and they were usually carried on by individuals or communities to aid the many at the cost of a few. Most extensive organizations to this end appear to have obtained in the Khandesh District, where a great deal of charity was developed which did not pass through our hands. The richer classes of the native community in this district appear to have been most keenly alive to the wants of their poorer neighbours, and by their action showed that they were willing to give generously in time, trouble and money to meet the distress. No less than forty grain shops are reported by Mr. Cumine to have been established in his district. The capital made available is put down at over a lakh of rupees, and during a period of ten months an average of over 11,000 people per mensem availed themselves of the facilities afforded. About thirty places where food was distributed in this district are also mentioned as the outcome of private benevolence. We have dwelt at some length on this subject of cheap grain shops with a view of showing what an extremely useful form of charity they may become when famine stalks through the land and the rapacity of local grain sellers requires to be kept in check.

(F) Miscellaneous expenditure under Object III amounts to **Rs 1,965-11-2**, and a good deal of it might well have come under more definite heads, but the sums spent, however, may not have been covered exactly by any single one of the sub-divisions before given. One thousand six hundred and sixteen people have been relieved by these miscellaneous expenses at a cost of under **Rs 1-4-0** per head. In Gokak, within the Belgaum Collectorate, the weavers were badly hit, as they were unable to realize the produce of their looms, and the Municipality came to their rescue and made purchases from them to the value of **Rs 9,670-5-11**. We advanced the money, of which **Rs 3,670-5-11** has already been returned, and the whole sum will probably be refunded in course of time.

Object IV.

To restore to their original position, when acute distress has subsided those who have lost their all in the struggle and to give them a fresh start in life.

By far the heaviest demands on our resources have been made for Object

Supply of Cattle and Seed. IV. We show an expenditure of Rs 9,09,251-13-7, up to the 31st October, and the major portion of the 3½ lakhs remaining in the hands of the district committees on that date has since been expended on the objects covered by this section. In a land where agricultural appliances driven by steam are unknown, and where horses are never used for field operations, the whole of the important processes of ploughing and harrowing are carried out by oxen and buffaloes. It is not easy for those who have had no practical acquaintance with the life of the cultivator in India to appreciate the enormous part played by the bovine tribe in village life, and of all animals the cow and the she-buffalo and their offspring are the most precious and valuable. The Hindu who described the cow as "India's foster-mother" was not unhappy in his simile, and without this patient, hardy, and hard-working race, the cultivation of the soil, as at present conducted, would be impossible. In times of famine where the food grains of the people have failed to mature, there is invariably terrible distress and loss of life amongst the poor dumb creatures who likewise look to the soil for their sustenance. Human beings human ingenuity and forethought may save from the terrible consequences of drought, but the cattle perish, and with the cattle depart the means of cultivating the land when kindly nature once more "smiles with life-giving tears." When the village wells have run low, the river-beds become stony or sandy wastes and the cracked earth shows no sign of vegetation, it is unspeakably sad to see the cattle reduced to mere skin and bones, sad-eyed and patient to the end, waiting their doom. Often this comes in the shape of sudden death from the butchers' knife, for bones and horns and skin are marketable commodities. But the last possession a pious Hindu would think of parting with to keep his own body and soul together are the faithful cattle he owns, and many a cow, buffalo and ox are led off to the jungles there to live or perish as Providence shall decree when their owners can no longer supply them with food and water. What the death rate has been amongst the horned cattle of the famine districts of this Presidency it is difficult to say, but in Bijapur alone (one of the worst districts it is true) no less than 200,000 are estimated to have perished. At an all-round value of Rs 25 per head, the loss in this district alone is represented by the enormous sum of Rs 50,00,000-0-0. Large, therefore, as has been our expenditure on cattle and careful as have been the uses to which we have applied our purchases and their final distribution, it will be apparent that we have only as it were ameliorated the very outskirts of the distress. By judicious management on the part of local authorities, however, and excellent administration by the Collectors, large tracts of country which would otherwise have lain fallow have been ploughed, sown and reaped, but it will be years, with the most favourable seasons, ere the ryot is once more in a moderately prosperous condition. In addition to charges for the purchase, hire, feeding and care of cattle, considerable sums were spent on the purchase of seed grain, and in this manner we were enabled to assist over 125,000 cultivators and to give them a fresh start in life. As showing how relatively insignificant were the losses which people other than husbandmen suffered during the famine, it is only necessary to state that our expenses in providing artisans and others with the wherewithal to start life again amount to only Rs 7,000; and out of the miscellaneous expenditure, mostly incurred at Poona, of Rs 2,020-12, all but a few rupees went for the maintenance of agriculturists.

Object V.

Under this heading are grouped the cost of office and contingent expenditure and printing. The total amounts to Rs 3,525-7-7, and a refund in respect of Rs 53-8-8 will be effected. The heaviest item appearing in the accounts is one of Rs 800 odd for cost of printing, lighting, etc., in connection with the public meeting held at the Town Hall on the 17th December 1896. But taking all these items into consideration, our expenses amount to Rs 3,471-14-11 only against an expenditure on the four objects of the fund aggregating to Rs 12,36,424-9-9, thus showing a proportion of Rs 0.28 per cent. or a little over Rs 0.4-5 per Rs 100 expended.

PART III.

THE DISTRICTS.

Whilst the records at our disposal would enable us to give very full particulars of the procedure adopted in each district for the distribution of charitable relief, it will, we think, be more convenient if we deal with one district exhaustively and explain what was done in the others, as briefly as possible. We, therefore, propose to take the district of Bijapur as our type, and we feel sure that the able, complete, and instructive reports penned by Mr. G.D. Panse, C.S., the Collector, President of the Local Committee, and by Mr. W. D. Sheppard, I.C.S., Chairman of the Local Committee, cannot fail to be of interest to the subscribers, and be appreciated by them.

BIJAPUR.

Receipts—

From the Provincial Committee	.	.	.	.	.	4,28,010
" Local Subscriptions	.	.	.	.	.	6,385
TOTAL	.					<u>4,34,395</u>

Expenditure to 31st October 1897—

						R	a.	p.
Object I	.	.	.	.	.	37,825	5	1
" II	.	.	.	.	.	Nil.		
" III	.	.	.	.	.	63,338	3	7
" IV	.	.	.	.	.	2,18,657	12	4
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	297	6	11
TOTAL	.					<u>3,20,118</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

Report by Mr. G. D. Panse, c.s., Collector of Bijapur.

Immediately after receiving instructions from His Excellency, I convened a meeting in Bijapur, and one at Bagalkot for the collection of subscriptions. The amount collected came to Rs. 6,300 only, but it must be remembered that the famine affected all classes, materially crippling their resources, and the amount they gave, though small, was liberal enough under the circumstances.

The amount allotted to the district was four lakhs and more, a most princely donation, and one which has aroused the liveliest sense of gratitude in all classes of people relieved from the fund.

In order to ensure a proper distribution of the large amount placed at our disposal, a Central Committee was appointed, consisting of the leading representatives of all classes of people with myself as President, Mr. Sheppard as Chairman, and seven sub-centres were fixed for the district. The controlling officers were the Revenue Sub-divisional Officers, Subordinate Judges and the Reverend F. Eissfelder.

These officers had to find out families and individuals suffering acutely, but avoiding publicity, and to discriminate between those who were really destitute and those who feigned to be so. The duties were of a most onerous kind, often requiring a sacrifice of personal comfort, but they were performed with the greatest cheerfulness and with a truly disinterested desire of helping the needy and afflicted. These officers were assisted by the whole of the official staff, such as Relief and Taluka Mamlatdars, the Overseers and the special Civil Officers.

The requirements of the different centres were carefully scrutinised by the Central Committee and funds were allotted in accordance with the urgency of the requirements. Cheques were issued by me, being primarily responsible for the sums, and the accounts were kept by Mr. Sheppard.

The accounts were very carefully kept and subjected to an audit by the Central Committee every month. There was no misapplication and with the

exception of a few trivial mistakes noticed by the Audit Officer specially deputed for the purpose, the accounts were found to be correct. Credit is due to Mr. Sheppard for having kept such satisfactory accounts, though no definite rules were at first laid down as to the manner in which they were to be written.

The expenditure is classified under various heads (*vide* Statement B). The first, namely clothing, has absorbed a large amount, *vis.*, Rs. 30,850. I have personally distributed a large quantity of clothing, and I can confidently say that it was a form of charity that met a real want and that was most easily appreciated by all. I have much pleasure in endorsing the remarks made by Mr. Sheppard about the conscientious manner in which the work was done by the different officers. To hit the right mean between indiscriminate charity and no charity is a matter often requiring great tact and judgment, and it is to the credit of the officers concerned that they showed both qualities in an eminent degree.

The clothing distributed consisted of kambals,* saries, dhotars,† shirts, and bodices. The number of recipients was 27,388 or nearly one-fifth of the highest maximum reached on relief works. It must, however, be remembered throughout that the final accounts have not yet been made up and the distribution of clothing, etc., is still going on. A large portion of clothing required was purchased from local weavers, who thereby got occupation of which they were deprived by famine. A double purpose was thus served by this arrangement.

Under (B) of Head I, there was only an expenditure of Rs. 387 in supplementing the rations given in poor-houses. The number of persons relieved comes also only to 791. This clearly shows that the rations given by Government are sufficient except, of course, in cases of illness where, however, necessary provision is made by the Medical Officer.

Under C of the same head, the expenditure was again small. The wages of labourers being strictly regulated by the prices of food grains, and each man's earnings being quite sufficient for his livelihood, there was no hardship which called for any special relief falling within the province of the Fund. It will be seen from this that precautions were taken to keep the charity within the limits prescribed, so that it might not trench upon the area covered by Government relief.

Growing children, it was found, required some variety in the food given, and milk, vegetables and fruit, in some cases, were added to the Government ration. The number of children thus relieved was 4,145.

Under the last item in head I is shown an expenditure of Rs. 4,649 to 3,937 people. This gives a rupee and a quarter to each individual, and represents amounts given to help needy men on their way to relief works.

This includes gifts given to poor women during confinement. This period sometimes extends over a period of days during which the woman is not allowed to expose herself and does no work. The help given to such women was well-bestowed and was instrumental in saving a great amount of hardship.

Under head II we had reserved a sum of Rs. 10,000 for orphans, but no instances of children having had nobody to help them having come to our notice, the sum was reappropriated to other purposes.

Under head III is shown an expenditure of Rs. 63,338 distributed as follows:—

	R.
Money dole	41,049
Clothing	16,740
Cheap grain shop	4,149
Grain dole	1,400
TOTAL	63,338

A large portion of this sum was spent in helping respectable families reduced to the verge of starvation by the hard times. Not being accustomed to labour and fearing publicity, they would certainly have succumbed if succour had

* Coarse blankets.
† Men's body-clothing.

not arrived. There is a large number of Mahomedan families in Bijapur who have got deeply in debt, the result of improvidence and litigation. It was among these families that the benevolent work of Mr. Sheppard lay.

Frequently visiting them in their own homes, he talked to them freely, and knowing their wants, helped them with a most liberal hand. His benevolent exertions have evoked expressions of the most heart-felt gratitude.

Many Brahmin families too, in straitened circumstances were saved from starvation, and from what was worse, being forced to beg from door to door. The work in Bijapur was entrusted to Mr. Phadnis, the Sub-Judge of this place, and he took great pains.

Retired pensioners who served in the Army, Police, etc., received assistance which was warmly appreciated.

The total number of families relieved comes to 11,989. Supposing each family consists of 5, the number of individuals relieved would be 59,945 at an outlay of ₹59,189. This works out at less than a rupee per member distributed over seven months. This shows how economically the funds have been utilised though care was taken to see that none went without help who really needed it.

This was a form of relief which has called forth the liveliest expressions of gratitude and has brought vividly before the minds of the people the keen solicitude with which their lives are watched by a benevolent Government.

Rupees 4,149 were spent on a cheap grain shop here in Bijapur. The necessity of such a shop was felt in July when prices rose abnormally high, and considering how useful it proved, the outlay upon it will not seem out of proportion. In making this shop a success the services of the following gentlemen were of particular value. Mr. Sheppard, in company with myself, exercised general supervision and managed to be present personally on most days. Mr. Irappa Mamadpalli, a merchant of this place, gave very valuable assistance by his experience of mercantile matters without which we should have found ourselves quite at sea.

Messrs. Raghavendarao, Pleader and Vice-President of the Municipality; Phadnis, Sub-Judge; Bijapur, Jathar, Head Master of the local High School; and Ajrekar and some other Pleaders of the local bar worked very zealously and often at great personal inconvenience and I thank them most heartily for their co-operation.

The shop continued for more than two months and was closed in September. A wish was expressed and it was also felt desirable to open such shops in other places, but owing to want of proper supervision the idea had to be abandoned.

Rupees 2,18,658, or more than half of what was allotted to the district for all purposes, were spent under head IV. The heaviest calamity due to drought is generally the terrible loss of cattle that die even from the very commencement of the famine. During the last famine thousands were slaughtered for their hides and thousands died of starvation. The number of cattle thus lost is estimated at about 297,428. Having no cattle and no seed, the cultivators were reduced to a very miserable state and the Fund came to them as a real God-send and a blessing. Grants for the purchase of seed were made first in May for the kharif or early crops and afterwards in September for the late or rabi sowings. The area sown with the help of the grant in five talukas is shown below:—

AREA SOWN WITH THE HELP
OF THE I. F. C. R. FUND.

No.	Name of Taluka.	Kharif.	Rabi.
		Acres.	Acres.
1	Badami	11,161	4,879
2	Bagalkot	6,438	10,076
3	Indi	14,370	43,075
4	Sindgi	52,632	81,552
5	Muddebihal	3,028	25,131
		<u>87,629</u>	<u>1,64,713</u>

Statistics for the other talukas are not available, but looking to the fact that similar advances have been made in those talukas the total area cultivated with the aid of the Fund may be estimated at about

	Acres.
Kharif	140,207
Rabi	263,542
	<hr/>
	03,749

in the whole district, and the amount spent over it amounts to Rs 1,51,000.

The following is a list of sums spent by the different officers for seed, etc., and the area of land sown with the help of this donation is, as said above, 403,749 acres which, if it had not been given, would certainly have lain fallow and so much produce would have been lost to the district :—

	For kharif. Rs	For rabi. Rs
Mr. R. C. Artal	16,092	21,030
Mr. K. B. Deval	6,144	13,042
Mr. R. P. Barrow	8,160	9,297
Mr. V. V. Phadke	8,017	10,813
Mr. V. R. Kelkar	6,044	23,250
Mr. H. Page	9,439	5,581
Mr. H. V. Chinmulgund	1,150	10,350
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	55,046	85,363

excluding minor sums.

I beg to bring to your special notice the excellent work done by Rao Saheb Chinmulgund, Sub-Judge at Mudebihal. His indefatigable exertions and judgment have made his services of great value and the most sincere thanks of both myself and the Committee are due to him.

Mr. Phadke, who was entrusted with the work of distribution in Bagalkot, spared no pains in bringing relief home to every one who stood in need of it, and my thanks are also due to him.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure of expressing the warm approval of the services rendered by all Sub-Divisional Officers, particularly by Mr. Sheppard. As Chairman of the Committee, the principal management of the Fund devolved on him and his conscientious and hard work is not the least important factor in the success with which the operations were carried on.

The chief responsibility was of course with me, and I have taken the utmost care to see that the Fund was devoted strictly to the purposes which were laid down in your instructions. I hope that the manner in which the Fund has been administered in the district will be found satisfactory.

Report by Mr. W. D. Sheppard, I.C.S., Chairman, District Committee, Bijapur.

Bijapur district, which has an area of 5,668 square miles, and a present estimated population of 900,000, is one of the eastern districts of the Bombay Presidency, and is situated in an area specially liable to drought owing to its normally light and occasionally capricious rainfall.

Physically the district divides itself readily into three zones, a northern zone of monotonous undulations of Deccan trap, containing only narrow strips of cultivation for the most part wretchedly poor, but providing grazing on the uplands for large flocks of sheep and goats, a central zone containing the valley of the river Don, an open expanse of rich, well-cultivated black soil studded with prosperous villages, and a southern zone of mixed red and black soils broken into by two ranges of fairly wooded hills.

The only large towns in the district are Bijapur, which lies on the southern edge of the northern zone, and Bagalkat and Guledgudd situated in the southern zone.

Agriculture forms the sole support of 75 per cent. of the population, 20 per cent. are engaged in crafts and industries, and the remaining 5 either in learned professions or service of various kinds.

The principal crop is jowari,* of which a million acres and-a-half are usually sown each year. Bajrit† is the next in importance with three hundred thousand acres, the total for all cereals being approximately two million acres. Pulses cover ordinarily two hundred and fifty thousand acres and cotton three hundred and fifty thousand acres. The total area cropped throughout the district is a little over three million acres.

The inhabitants of the district are not accustomed to migrate, and have but little connection with the neighbouring countries. In ordinary years ample work is found for all in agricultural pursuits, and the normal production of grain permits of a large and increasing export trade. The people are fairly well-to-do, and as long as average crops are obtained have no difficulty in living comfortably.

During the past year the conditions have been abnormal. In May 1896 an average amount of rain fell succeeded in June by a slight deficiency, the fall for the two months together being 3 inches 99 cents. as against an average of 4 inches 94 cents. During this period the kharif sowings were completed, and the seed germinated successfully. July was an average month with a rainfall of 1'92, and the kharif crop continued to be well. Then occurred a serious deficiency. August provided only 1 inch and 68 cents of rain against an average of 3 inches and 93 cents, and in September again the fall was only 1'52 as compared with the average of 4 inches 68 cents. Throughout these two months the kharif struggled to keep alive, but its growth was seriously retarded, and early in October it was seen that there was a risk of the crop failing altogether. This fear was converted into a certainty, when in October the total rainfall was only 24 cents instead of an average of 4 inches 74 cents. Not only did the failure of rain in October cause the kharif crop to wither and die, but it also prevented any rabi sowings. Rain did not fall again till the close of November, and though the total fall for the month was 1 inch and 67 cents, its short duration only allowed of the sowing of a portion of the rabi area. Even this died in December, the rainfall of which month was only 15 cents.

There was therefore a total failure of the crops, and the appearance of the country in the month of January was distressing in the extreme. Except in the neighbourhood of wells and of the rivers there was scarcely a blade of green to be discerned. The uplands had produced no grass, and the fields were as bare as the palm of the hand. The total outturn of food crops for the season throughout the district was thirty million pounds, a quantity only sufficient to feed the population for about three weeks.

The local failure of the crops occurring simultaneously with a similar failure in all the Deccan districts of the Bomay Presidency, and in large areas in other parts of India, naturally resulted in a rapid rise of prices, and by the end of November the state of the country was officially recognised as one of acute famine. Relief works were started in November, and were continued throughout the year providing employment for the families of all who were willing to do manual labour. Gratuitous relief was given in the villages to the old and infirm.

The figures of the persons in receipt of Government relief in the early months of the famine are as follows:—

December 3rd	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15,000
January 7th	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	64,000
February 5th	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80,000

Such was the state of the district when Mr. Panse, the Collector, on February 8th received from the Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, a letter informing him that funds would shortly be available for distribution in the Bombay Presidency, inviting him to supply

* The great millet.
† The bulrush millet.

full information of the needs of Bijapur, and to arrange for the formation of Committees to control the distribution of the funds.

A meeting was accordingly convened on February 13th at which a large and representative company of the inhabitants of Bijapur were present. At this meeting a General Committee was formed to collect subscriptions and to advise as to the manner in which the amounts available could be best expended on charitable relief. This Committee consisted of all the sub-divisional officers, the district engineers, the medical officers of the district, the three subordinate judges, three of the leading pleaders, six merchants of Bijapur, and a retired Revenue official. Mr. Panse, the Collector, was the President.

A smaller Committee was also nominated consisting of—

Mr. W. D. Sheppard, Chairman,	}	Members,
Rao Saheb H. S. Phadnis,		
Rao Saheb Raghavendrao, Pleader,		
Rao Saheb B. Y. Jather,		
Mr. Hanmandas Singi,		
Mr. Dhundapa Jogur,		
Mr. Erappa Mantri,		
Mr. Raghoji Bhai,		

for the purpose of ministering the funds.

Circulars were at once issued to all the officials in the district and to such other gentlemen as were likely to be interested in the matter, inviting suggestions as to the manner in which the funds could be best expended, informing them that subscriptions would be welcome, and asking them if they were willing personally to assist in distributing the charity.

The following sub-centres were then fixed for the distribution of relief:—

1. Sindgi.
2. Indi.
3. Bagewadi.
4. Hungund.
5. Bagalkot.
6. Guledgudd.
7. Muddebihal.

In the first five of these the controlling officers were the sub-divisional Revenue officials, Messrs. Artal, Dewal, Barrow, Kelkar and Page, in Guledgudd, The Revd. F. Eissfelder, and in Muddebihal Mr. Chinmulgund, a Subordinate Judge.

To these officers fell the arduous task of searching throughout their talukas for the families of respectable but destitute poor who were suffering silently from hunger and want and the still more troublesome duty of ascertaining the losses of the poorest agriculturists who would be badly in want of cattle and seed as soon as agricultural operations would again be possible. This work required and received the closest personal attention and involved much physical effort at a particularly trying season of the year. The enquiries began in March, and the distribution of charitable relief has continued till now.

For the relief of the people actually on relief works, we obtained the cordial assistance of the officers of the Public Works Department—Messrs. Apte, Gayatonde, Subrao, Ramanna, Krishnarao, and since his arrival in the district, of Mr. T. Barclay Robertson. These gentlemen undertook the work of buying and distributing clothing amongst the most needy of the relief workers.

In the towns of Bijapur and Bagalkot the work of distributing charity was allotted to the local officers, Messrs. Sheppard, Chittre, and Phadnis having most to do in Bijapur, the same duties being undertaken in Bagalkot by Mr. Phadke.

The whole district was thus divided into workable charges, the responsible officers being of course assisted by the whole of their official staffs, the principal of whom were the Mamlatdars and Relief Mamlatdars, the Overseers of the Public Works Department, and on works the special Civil officers.

This arrangement has been maintained ever since, the only important change that was made being the division of Mr. Page's charge into two, giving Bagalkot

Taluka to Mr. Phadke and leaving Badami to Mr. Page. This change was made more workable by the President, Mr. Panse, undertaking himself the distribution of seed and cattle to the rayats of the Bagalkot Taluka.

Another change was in the constitution of the Executive Committee of which early in April Mr. Panse became the President and most of the Sub-divisional Officers Members.

The duty of keeping the accounts of the fund was entrusted from the beginning to Mr. Sheppard.

As the distribution of relief has been entrusted to gentlemen who are fully acquainted with the details of the famine code and the extent to which the people can look to Government for assistance, no difficulty has been found in preventing the two systems of relief from overlapping each other, while the same fact has ensured that they shall maintain close touch with each other. A careful scrutiny of the monthly account submitted by each officer showed very clearly that there was little or no risk of any expenditure being incurred either improperly or unwisely, a fact that has been emphasised by the result of the audit of the accounts which took place in September.

I will now pass on to the relief actually given.

The accompanying statement in Form B* gives a brief summary of our disbursements under the various heads.

Under Head I comes the cost of clothing supplied to persons in receipt of Government relief either in poor houses, kitchens or outside—the cost of comforts supplied in poor houses, the supplementing of the famine wage on relief works, and finally 'other expenditure.'

Of these items the first is by far the heaviest. It was but natural that persons who were forced by want to have recourse to the Government relief works, and to work there for a wage which was just sufficient to feed them, should gradually wear out the small quantity of clothing that they ordinarily had with them. When they first joined the works this was not very noticeable, but from August onwards many of the workers and specially those of the lower castes such as Mahars, Mhangs, Berads and Lamanis, had become gradually reduced to a state of almost absolute nakedness. These destitute workers were the recipients of relief under this head. The largest number were found in the Southern Talukas of the district where the numbers on relief were much greater than in the North. Mr. G. K. Apte, Executive Engineer, and Mr. Ramanna, Assistant Engineer, devoted much time and attention to finding out the really needy and providing them with clothing. Mr. C. Subrao at Bagewadi was also very active in doing the same, and clothing was also distributed in Indi and Sindgi by Mr. Gayatonde. Without the assistance of officers like these who moved every day among the workers, and who could distinguish without difficulty the really necessitous, we should have found it very difficult to make a judicious distribution of the clothing, for the merest rumour that clothing was to be distributed immediately resulted in an assembly of almost naked persons who deliberately appeared in their oldest and scantiest rags with the hope of deceiving the distributing officer.

The total cost of the clothing given was ₹ 30,850 of which the largest sum, *viz.*, nearly ₹ 12,000, was expended in October—a time when the heavy rainfall rendered clothing of some sort an absolute necessity.

The clothing consisted of saris,† cholis,‡ shirts, and blankets, and the recipients were both children and adults. The saris cost from ₹ 1-4-0 to ₹ 2-0-0, the cholis annas 3 to annas 5, the shirts annas 4 to annas 6, and the blankets annas 10 to ₹ 1-5-0. The total number of persons who received clothing was 27,388 or roughly one-fifth of the highest number ever on relief works. Two-thirds of the clothing was bought from the local weavers who thereby were relieved from the great stagnation in their business.

The total cost of comforts supplied in poor houses was ₹ 387 only, and the total number of persons relieved was 791. We did not feel justified in devoting much of our money to this object. The poor house ration was in

* Embodied in the Provincial Committee's statement.

† Women's dresses

‡ Bodices.

ordinary cases fully adequate to the wants of the recipients, and in the case of persons who were suffering from actual illness or disease, the Medical Officer could order any change of diet that he considered desirable. We therefore limited our attention to those individuals who though not actually sick were apparently wanting in stamina and physique. These were mostly children of 4 or 5 years of age. The daily average of persons relieved works out to 3'69.

Similarly in making additions to the Government wages on relief works, we had but little opportunity of doing useful work. The health of the workers was good throughout the whole period of distress, and any cases of sickness were treated in the hospitals. The only persons whom we felt able to assist were those who only came on to the works after a prolonged fast, and whose strength for the first few days was obviously below par. The total number of persons so assisted were 94 men, 351 women and 758 children.

In providing meals to children about the relief works, we limited our attention to the Government kitchens where, twice a week, we gave a small extra ration to the more feeble children, and to all the children a little fruit or vegetables. The Government ration though monotonous was generally admitted to be sufficient. 4,145 children were relieved in this way.

The final item under this head is 'other expenditure', given entirely to persons who were not on relief works. I have described it in Form B as 'casual donations to destitute poor' and the total amount so expended is Rs 4,649 given to 3,937 persons. In the majority of cases, the sums given were small, such as 4 or 8 annas, and the recipients were poor half-starved persons who from one cause or another had not yet betaken themselves to the relief works. The object of the gifts was to relieve the people temporarily and assist them to reach the works which in many cases were some distance away.

The expenditure also includes sums given to women of the poorest classes on the occasion of their confinement. Many cases of confinement of course occurred actually on the works, and Government provided liberally for the immediate wants of the mothers, but there were also many who preferred to go home for their delivery, and whose children would probably have died if they had not been assisted. In such cases which were fairly numerous, a sum of Rs 2 or 3 was given to the woman. An additional reason for doing this was that the illness of the woman compelled her husband in most cases to remain at home to help her, and his consequent inability to go to work made their distress even more acute.

I have included under this head Rs 36 paid to start again in life two families of weavers who through illness and misfortune had been obliged to sell off all their weaving implements and take refuge for some months in a Government Poor House. Rs 30 was paid for two sets of weaving implements, and Rs 6 for a supply of yarn.

Under Head II we have had no expenditure. Search was made throughout the district for children without father or mother, and a few such were discovered, but in no case was the death of the parents attributable to famine, and in all, the orphans had found a home either with relations or friends. It was not therefore necessary to differentiate the cases of these children from those of the other members of the families into which they had been admitted, and if they received any relief from the Charitable Fund, it was only when on relief works under Head I or when they formed members of a poor respectable family relieved under Head III. In accordance with the wishes of the Central Committee at Calcutta, we at one time reserved Rs 10,000 in anticipation of any calls which orphans might make on the fund, but after full enquiry had been made, we were driven to the conclusion that the provision was quite unnecessary, and as you were informed at the time, the reservation of the funds was cancelled.

Under Head III we have spent Rs 63,338, of which clothing accounts for Rs 16,740, grain doles Rs 1,400, money doles Rs 41,049, and a cheap grain shop Rs 4,149. The recipients of this relief have been the respectable poor of the district, persons who were unaccustomed to do any labour out of doors, and whose pride would let them starve rather than go to a poor house. As an old Mahomedan Kingdom, the Bijapur district contains a fairly large sprinkling of good Mahomedan families, Inamdars, Jahagirdars, Pirzadas and Kazis. Their present condition is unfortunately a sad contrast to their former greatness, and

so distressed have they now become, that there is hardly a single family that is not even in ordinary times in a state of miserable poverty. Their condition is mainly due to an utter carelessness as to falling into debt, and to their law of inheritance with its unlimited subdivisions of property. Add to this a strong disinclination to work or to take advantage of the openings available to such as take the trouble to become educated and it is easy to imagine that they have fallen upon evil times. There is hardly a family whose land is not mortgaged and in the possession of others and the most they receive from it is a bag or two of grain given by the cultivating tenant when the season is good. Families of this type have been the principal recipients of relief among the Mahomedans. There has also been considerable distress among the Brahmins of the district. Each village has its families of hereditary village officers, the descendants of the original Patel or Kulkarni. Not unfrequently they are well-to-do, but on the other hand there are many who entirely subsist on the produce of their small plots of land which this year have produced nothing.

In both these classes it is not so much the men who have suffered as the women and children. The Mussulmans many of them migrated to other districts or took to manual labour and it was no disgrace for the Brahmin to earn his three annas a day as Muccadum on Relief Works. But the women had to remain at home with their children and run the risk of starvation. It is these whom we have searched for and relieved.

Another class of recipients has been old pensioners living in the district who formerly served in the Army, Police or as Peons. We found most of them with families dependent on them with no support except their pensions. As the pensions ordinarily varied from R3 to R6 these men soon felt the effects of the rise in prices, and from the month of July we began to assist them. The amounts given have been as follows :—

Month.	Number of pensioners.	Total amount paid.
		R
July	33	65
August	37	89
September	46	108
October	47	127

No persons have expressed more warmly their gratitude for the assistance given them from the Fund than have these old men. In October they were each of them given a warm blanket as a protection against the cold and rain.

Other people have also shared in the relief such as Lingayats, Gurus, Jangams and Abyas ordinarily supported by the offerings of their religious adherents and several poor Brahmin priests officiators at the village temples.

In the large majority of cases the relief took the form of a money dole disbursed by some responsible officer. In the Talukas the Subdivisional Officers and Mr. Chinmulgund gradually discovered these cases of distress and relieved them. In Guledgudd the Revds. Eisfelder and Falk gave us their assistance. In Bagalkot Mr. Phadke, who had the advantage of considerable local experience, worked indefatigably to avert distress. In Bijapur we were able to subdivide the work. Mr. Phadnis looked after the wants of the Brahmins, Mr. Chitre the other Hindus, and I myself, assisted at first by Mrs. Blackburne Smith, visited the houses of the Mussulmans and gave assistance to such as I found to be in need.

The number of families relieved month by month has been as follows :—

April	223
May	946
June	1,328
July	1,882
August	2,267
September	2,572
October	2,769

or a gross total of 11,987 donations, of which 423 were doles of grain and 11,564 gifts of cash. The grain was given in May by Mr. Phadke only and in the following months only by the Revds. Eisfelder and Falk. The other officers realised very soon how very laborious such a method of relief must be and preferred to give the relief in cash.

The steady rise in the numbers from 223 to 2,769 was due in the first instance to the difficulty of ascertaining immediately who were in need and in the later months to the increased distress caused by the constant rise in prices and the exhaustion of any stock of grain or money which the people had when the famine began.

The task of discovering the persons who were in need which at the beginning was somewhat difficult and entailed much trouble, rapidly disappeared when it became known that such relief was available. The difficulty then was to differentiate between the applicants for relief whose petitions came in in shoals and to ensure that relief was not given unless the family was one which could neither work nor be expected to go to a Poor House.

No branch of the relief given from the Charitable Fund has been more appreciated or has done more good than these monthly allowances and many have been the expressions of gratitude and acknowledgments of generosity which have greeted the ears of those who distributed the charity. But for this relief it is certain that many must have died of starvation.

The clothing also which was distributed among these people has been most gratefully received and by many of them none too soon, their poverty preventing them from being able to provide themselves with the most necessary coverings. We have given clothing to 16,715 persons and assuming 5 to be the average number in a household, every single member of a respectable family has received something. As in the case of relief workers, the clothing has taken the form of saris, cholis, shirts and blankets. The blankets were mostly bought outside the district as being much cheaper than those locally obtainable, but the other clothing was invariably purchased from the local weavers. We had lists made of the latter and once a week on the day following bazar day, where they had had their chance of selling what they had woven during the last seven days, they were invited to offer us for sale whatever remained on hand. This was regularly done in Bijapur, Muddebihal, Guledgudd and Bagalkot and was an enormous help to the weavers, and I think we may confidently say that all weavers who could produce the ordinary garments worn by the poorer classes were absolutely saved from the pressure of want.

The expenditure on the cheap grain shop was incurred in Bijapur town. We were not at all anxious to have such a shop on the ground that economically it was an unsound thing to do, but when in July the prices in the local market appeared to us to be rising without any very apparent cause unreasonably high, we decided, in consideration of the fact that there were no relief works in the neighbourhood of Bijapur, and that there was great distress among all those who were still resident in the town, to import grain from outside, hoping to be able to get it at a cheaper rate than in Bijapur itself. With the assistance of Mr. Irappa Mamadpalli, a local merchant, we obtained a large quantity of grain from Bangalore, Dharwar and Haiderabad at rates which though at first slightly lower, eventually only enabled us to put it down in Bijapur at much the same price as we could buy it wholesale locally. This grain we sold at from 2 to 4lbs cheaper than the price prevalent in the local market. We imported at the suggestion of Mr. Panse, a large quantity of ragi,* a cheap grain of good sustaining power but quite unknown to the people. This innovation proved a great success, for finding the grain very filling at the price, and the price, much less than that of any other grain available, we soon had a very large sale at a very slight loss. We also sold kulthi† and jowari, both in much demand.

The sales took place on Sundays the ordinary tazar day, and our shop was open from 1 till 6 o'clock. We were greatly assisted here by the members of the local bar, Messrs. Raghavendrao, Sheshagirao, Desai, Dhondopant Chebbi, Tavargerri and Ajrekar, also by the High School Master Mr. Jethar. These gentlemen sold the tickets which were exchanged for our grain and their work was extremely heavy as the stream of buyers, each trying to be first to get a ticket, gave them constant and exciting employment.

No single man was allowed to buy more than 12 annas worth of jowari or kulthi or more than a rupee's worth of ragi, and on leaving the shop com-

* A coarse millet.

† A kind of pulse.

pound with his grain on his head we prevented his coming a second time the same day by making him dip his hand in a pot of red dye.

We closed the shop in the middle of September, having had it open for a couple of months.

Under Head IV, our expenditure did not begin till the end of May when the season for preparing the land and sowing the kharif crop again came round, and found many of the rayats absolutely without any means at all. The terrible loss of cattle, amounting to over two hundred thousand head most of which had starved to death, had deprived almost all of the smaller rayats of the whole of their plough cattle. There were many who had neither food for their own subsistence, money to purchase grain, nor cattle to plough up their lands. We reckoned that we should require nearly four lakhs of rupees to set on their legs again the thousand poorest rayats in each of the eight talukas of the district. The total amount available at the end of May was ₹2,20,000. Having been informed that we could not rely on receiving any further allotment of funds and having to provide for expenditure under the other Heads I and III, we were naturally chary of disposing at once of the whole of the funds at our command, but feeling at the same time that it was of the utmost importance to ensure a kharif crop for those who were most in need, we distributed ₹1,20,000 in sums of ₹15,000 to each of the talukas of the district, warning the officers at the same time that we could not guarantee them any further substantial allotment. The distribution of the sums allotted we left entirely to the discretion of the officers concerned. Most of the officers were in favour of small grants of money being given to as many poor cultivators as possible—the sums given, though insufficient to enable them to purchase cattle, being enough to provide them with seed subsistence during sowing, and where necessary, the labour to do the sowing for them. In this way for the kharif sowings, Mr. Artal distributed ₹16,092 among 2,644 cultivators in the Sindgi Taluka, one of the poorest parts of the district where famine had been most severely felt. Mr. Deval, in Indi, distributed ₹6,144 among 972 cultivators and also purchased 127 cattle of which 34 were given away to 34 individuals and the balance were kept for issue on loan. Mr. Barrow distributed ₹8,160 among 748 cultivators and also purchased and gave away 661 cattle to 660 cultivators in the two talukas of Bijapur and Bagewadi. In Bagalkot Mr. Phadke distributed ₹8,017 among 968 cultivators and bought 104 cattle all of which were loaned out to the poorest cultivators. Mr. Kelkar, in Hungund, distributed ₹6,044 among 511 cultivators and gave away 20 cattle to 20 persons. Mr. Page, in Badami, distributed ₹9,439 among 1,220 cultivators and purchased 120 cattle which he gave to 120 persons. In Muddebihal Mr. Chinmulgund distributed 7,310 lb of seed grain among 172 persons, gave ₹240 to 21 persons to enable them to sow their lands and bought 110 bullocks for issue on loan. In this Taluka 2,815 acres of land were sown through the assistance of the fund.

On the whole for the kharif crop a total of ₹55,000 was distributed among 7,250 persons and 1,150 bullocks were brought into the district at a cost of roughly ₹27,500, to be ultimately given away to those most in need.

This timely assistance ensured the sowing of a large area of land which otherwise would have remained waste.

Most of the officers kept a balance in hand for use at the later sowings in September and October, and we were fortunately able to largely supplement this from the handsome allotments which we received later. At the end of July we had ₹72,000 in hand and we then received further sums of ₹1,16,000, ₹15,010 and finally in October ₹30,000, making a total sum available of ₹2,33,000. From this, when the rabi season arrived we again allotted to the Taluka Officers ₹1,50,000 and the following sums were disbursed. Mr. Artal in Sindgi gave ₹21,030 to 6,725 cultivators and bought 214 cattle which he issued on loan. Mr. Deval in Indi distributed ₹13,042 among 2,324 cultivators and purchased 179 cattle, all of which he gave away as well as those remaining over at the end of the kharif sowings. Mr. Barrow in Bagewadi and Bijapur distributed ₹9,297 among 1,250 persons and bought 633 cattle of which 83 were sent for distribution in Sindgi Taluka and the remaining were given out in Bijapur and Bagewadi. In Bagalkot Mr. Panse and Mr. Phadke distributed

Rs. 10,813 among 1,320 persons and gave away 53 cattle which had been bought earlier in the year. Mr. Kalkar in Hungund distributed Rs. 25,250 among 3,322 persons and bought and gave away 9 cattle. Mr. Page, in Badami, distributed Rs. 5,581 among 1,034 persons and bought 8 cattle for subsequent distribution. In Muddebihal, Mr. Chinmulgund distributed 170,000 lb of seed of the value of Rs. 7,100 among 2,188 persons and assisted 586 persons by gifts of money aggregating Rs. 3,250. He continued to give out on loan the cattle previously purchased. Twenty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty-five acres of rabi were sown in Muddebihal by the help given from the Fund.

Including minor sums given by other officers, the total amount distributed for the rabi sowings was Rs. 96,000 exclusive of the cost of cattle purchased. The number of recipients is nearly 19,000.

More cattle have been bought and further relief has been distributed during the month of November.

The utmost care has been taken to make the relief afforded under Head IV as far reaching as possible. Every village has had its share in the grants both of money, grain and cattle and there is no doubt that none were assisted except the most deserving. For the purposes of famine administration each taluka in the district had been divided into circles containing a certain number of villages all within easy reach from some central spot, and by camping in the centre of each circle in turn the whole of the rayats were brought within reach, though this was not done without much personal inconvenience and considerable additional work to the officers concerned.

We met with some difficulty in getting cattle. It was useless to expect to buy many in the district, first because there were but few fit for work that were offering for sale, and secondly because we did not wish to compete against the rayats themselves, many of whom had obtained loans from Government to enable them to replace their animals. Sholapur also we could not exploit largely because there was a large demand there both from the rayats of the district and from the local branch of the Charitable Fund itself. We therefore had to look to the South. In the Dharwar District we found cattle markets in Dharwar, Hubli, Byadgi, and Savanur. To Savanur we sent one of our Mamlatdars, Khan Saheb Abdulkarim, who in ten days' absence was able to get us 160 head of excellent cattle at a very reasonable figure. From Byadgi we received 274 cattle from Rao Saheb H. R. Takle, the Mamlatdar of Ranebenur, and from Dharwar and Hubli Mr. Ganpat Mane, acting under the direction of Mr. W. R. Woodrow, sent us no less than 753 cattle at a cost of Rs. 20,000. The Relief Mamlatdar of Bagalkot, Mr. S. V. Yatgiri, also went out of the district for cattle and bought a number in Nipani which he marched over to Bagalkot. His cattle were good and cheap. To these officers we are much indebted for the assistance rendered.

The total number of cattle brought into the district up to the end of October is 2,394. Those brought for the kharif crop proved naturally the most expensive, as they came at a time when fodder was hardly procurable except at prohibitive prices, and had we not been allowed to purchase grass from Government at a privileged rate of 8 annas per maund, we should have been at our wit's end to feed them. As it was we had to support a considerable number during the months of July and August when they had little or no work to do, and I am inclined to think that on a future occasion it would be better to buy no cattle till the end of August or middle of September when fodder is easily procurable. For the kharif crops the rayats might be given money only with which they could, if necessary, hire manual labour to do their sowing.

It is difficult to describe effectively the very great assistance which the Fund has rendered to the famine-stricken cultivators of the district. Those who have obtained a bullock and also the money for sowing and subsistence, will be in almost as good a position as before the famine when once they have reaped their growing crops, while the others who have only been helped sufficiently to enable them to sow their lands and have received this help at a time when small loans were unprocurable except at a rate of from one to two hundred per cent., have been benefited to an extent quite out of proportion to the apparent smallness of the donations. Their feelings of gratitude to the generous subscribers who in so many ways have helped them in their

distress, are profound and sincere, and the Charity Fund, coupled perhaps with the names of the officers who brought its bounty to their very doors, will certainly be remembered by all classes in the district till another generation has passed away.

PANCH MAHALS AND REWA KANTHA.

The District bearing the above name lies to the north-east of Baroda, the Panch Mahals being British possessions, whereas Rewa Kantha is a congeries of small semi-independent Native States. The Bhils, Kolis and Naikdas, who are to be found in this tract, are poor backward races, and during the famine which prevailed further south many were reduced to great distress owing to high prices and poor crops. To assist them a local subscription list was started and $\text{Rs } 7,874\text{-}13\text{-}6$ raised. $\text{Rs } 400\text{-}14\text{-}1$ were expended under Head III, and $\text{Rs } 2,276\text{-}0\text{-}6$ under Head IV. No monies were obtained from Provincial Funds; on the other hand our resources have been augmented by a remittance of $\text{Rs } 2,597$ representing half the unexpended balance. The remaining half has been invested in $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ Government paper to form the nucleus of a local fund for future seasons of famine or distress, the administration of the fund being vested in a Standing Committee, consisting of the Collector and his Assistant for the time being and two local residents.

BOMBAY.

Towards the end of August, the influx of poor half-starved country people into Bombay from the Districts became so great that the private charity of individual citizens could not support them, and it became necessary on the part of Government to open test works for their relief. The organization of the measures was placed in the hands of Sir James Campbell, K.C.I.E., Chairman of the Plague Committee, who soon recognized that there were many cases requiring assistance which Government could not relieve under its famine rules, but which came legitimately within the sphere of our charity. On the representation made therefore, it was decided to grant a sum of $\text{Rs } 10,000$, and up to the 31st October last $\text{Rs } 4,659\text{-}7\text{-}8$ had been expended under Object I and $\text{Rs } 354\text{-}0\text{-}7$ under Object III.

THANA.

The town of this name is only some 20 miles from Bombay, but the District surrounds Bombay on the north and east, extends some eighty miles up the coast, and on the east is bounded by the Ghâts. Distress appeared during the rains of 1897 over an area of about 150 square miles amongst some of the indigent semi-wild tribes of Kolis, Thakurs, Warlis and Malkaris who are to be found in the forests and paddy fields at the base of the Ghâts. A gentleman whose name has not been recorded generously subscribed $\text{Rs } 3,000$ for the relief of these poor people, and at Wada a further sum of $\text{Rs } 500$ was secured for the same object. Neither of these sums were contributed to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The local subscriptions to the Fund amounted to $\text{Rs } 1,175$ of which $\text{Rs } 15\text{-}6\text{-}9$ was expended under Head II and $\text{Rs } 67\text{-}4\text{-}6$ under Head III; $\text{Rs } 900$ has since been remitted and added to the Provincial Fund.

KOLABA.

Famine was never acute in this small collectorate which lies south and east of Bombay, and is bordered by the Ghâts on one side and the sea on the other. There was of course some hardship and distress, but it was not until people came from out-districts that relief measures became necessary.

		<i>R a. p.</i>			
Receipts—					
From Provincial Fund	.	.	.	.	11,000 0 0
Expenditure—					
Under Object	I	.	.	.	2,087 2 4
"	II	.	.	.	1 12 0
"	III	.	.	.	584 9 10
"	IV	.	.	.	140 0 0
TOTAL		.	.	.	<u>2,813 8 2</u>

NASIK.

Owing to changes in the Executive Staff in this collectorate and to the advent of plague which has thrown much additional work on the present district officers, the returns required for this report have, it is regretted, not yet been submitted. The figures given herein are compiled from the subsidiary account statements previously furnished and may not be quite accurate although they are approximately so :—

		R.	a.	p.
Receipts—				
From Bombay		85,000	0	0
„ Local Subscriptions		1,515	8	1
TOTAL		<u>86,515</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
Expenditure—				
Under Head I		5,701	3	3
„ „ II		10,053	13	0
„ „ III		11,851	5	5
„ „ IV		18,313	8	6
Miscellaneous		98	9	0
TOTAL		<u>46,018</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>

KHANDESH.

Khandesh with an area of 10,700 square miles is the northernmost boundary of the Deccan and adjoins the Central India Agency and Berar on the north-east. As regards the Eastern Division, the degree of liability to famine is very much smaller than in the Deccan, but the seasonableness of the rains cannot be depended on and thus from time to time loss is occasioned. Drought is not the only cause of famine or acute distress, and the liability to serious loss from the floods of the Tapti and its tributaries cannot be overlooked. The cultivators here are well off and live easily in ordinary seasons, possessing fair credit.

In West Khandesh where the cultivators are as a rule poor and without forethought or self-restraint, readily run into debt, the liability to acute distress is less remote when the rainfall is unseasonable, excessive, or short, and as all of these conditions existed some time during the period the kharif crops (the principal food-crops of the year) of 1896 were growing, the outlook by the middle of September became most gloomy. Prices soon rose rapidly, and within six weeks or so a state of famine was looming in the immediate future. Cheap grain shops were started so that the people who were not yet wanting in employment could buy supplies at rates which their wages enabled them to afford, and these continued with great benefit to the poor long after test works had been opened and all provisions made both by Government and our Fund to relieve the distress.

		R.	a.	p.
Receipts—				
From Provincial Funds		86,000	0	0
„ Local Subscriptions		11,500	11	1
TOTAL		<u>97,500</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>
Expenditure—				
Under Object I		26,415	14	0
„ „ II		429	13	4
„ „ III		25,447	7	1
„ „ IV		43,430	15	2
Miscellaneous		76	12	4
TOTAL		<u>95,800</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

AHMEDNAGAR.

The area of this Collectorate is 6,589 square miles and the population about 900,000. The district lies between the Bhima and Godaveri rivers on the east of the Presidency, and, whilst possessing a considerable extent of poor soil, also embraces some large area of excellent land. The mass of the population depends on agriculture. The crops of the years 1893—95 were fair to good, but in 1896 the excessive rain followed by prolonged drought produced famine which became general throughout the district. As early as October 1896 local relief was started in the shape of a grain shop where sales were made at less than market rates, the quantity purchasable by any one individual being limited. It was kept on for nearly five months almost entirely at the cost of Seth Vishindas, a wealthy merchant of Karachi. Committees in connection with our fund were organized at the end of February 1897, and the work of distributing relief has been chiefly done by the Assistant and District Deputy Collectors, the Mamlatdars, Relief Mamlatdars, the members of the Relief Sub-Committees and the special officers on relief works. The north-west part of the district was much affected, the acutest distress being experienced in the Akola Taluka. Plague supervened on famine, and measures of relief are still necessary.

						<i>R a. p.</i>		
Receipts—								
From Provincial Funds	.	.	.	.	.	3,30,000	0	0
From local collections	.	.	.	.	.	10,104	2	0
TOTAL .						<u>3,40,104</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

Expenditure—				
Under Object	I	14,161	5	9
" "	II	556	13	9
" "	III	31,360	9	9
" "	IV	2,11,784	10	1
Miscellaneous	. . . . .	840	12	4
TOTAL .		2,58,704	3	8

POONA.

This Collectorate, which takes its name from the capital of the Deccan, is an irregular tract of country bordered by the Western Ghats towards the west, by the Ahmednagar District on the north, and east by Satara, and Sholapore on the south.

The district covers some 5,300 square miles and has a population of about 1,050,000. The area liable to chronic distress from failure of rains is the eastern part which makes up half the district. The western part is practically free from danger of distress caused by drought. The eastern tract has a good soil, but is badly supplied with water and is dependent on a capricious rainfall derived chiefly from the late or north-east monsoon. The early rainfall of 1896 was sufficient and seasonable, but excess during July and August spoiled the growing crops, and late plantings were dried up for want of moisture before the November rains set in. These admitted of the rabi sowing being made under fairly favourable conditions, but the subsequent absence of sufficient rains again caused a very poor yield from the winter harvest. The population is almost purely agricultural except at trade centres like Poona and Talegaon.

The physical peculiarities of the country, the diversity in productiveness of the soil, and the great variety of castes and races of the inhabitants render any

accurate description of the district impossible in a few words, and a detailed statement would, we think, not prove of much interest or value.

Receipts—

	R	a.	p.
From Provincial Fund	75,000	0	0
„ Local subscriptions *	190	5	6
„ Miscellaneous refunds and adjustments	10	8	0
TOTAL	75,200	13	6

Expenditure—

Under Object I	13,005	8	6
„ „ II	1,271	5	8
„ „ III	9,378	2	7
„ „ IV	28,482	8	3
Miscellaneous	7	2	0
TOTAL	52,144	11	0

SATARA.

The Satara Collectorate lies to the south of Poona and some 2,000 square miles of the district are liable to famine. The population is largely agricultural, but an unusual number of people are herdsmen and shepherds. In the east the soil is poor, and there is liability to failure of rainfall, but between it and the Ghats on the west there lies a rich central belt through which the Krishna flows, and with its facilities for irrigation from wells and running streams this forms a far more promising ground for agricultural pursuits.

Distress prevailed more or less throughout the district. Generally speaking, the early rains were excessive, while from the middle of August the fall was very scanty. The kharif crop was first flooded and choked with weeds and then burnt up by the fierce sun. Much rabi land remained unsown for want of the later rains and of what was sown only part germinated. In the whole of the hilly tract the crops failed utterly, the yield being insufficient even for seed, and the misery of the people was further increased by the labour market in Bombay, to which place large numbers from these tracts resort in the non-cultivating season, being closed to them by the plague. The total outturn from all lands from the two crops did not exceed some 33 per cent. of the average.

	R
The District received from Bombay	1,00,000
And raised locally	22

and expended :—

	R	a.	p.
Under Object I	15,457	3	8
„ „ II	95	3	0
„ „ III	4,117	12	6
„ „ IV	71,976	8	0
Sundries	1	4	0
TOTAL	91,647	15	2

Famine operations were not over at the date of this report, and the fierce outbreak of plague in the district, which has since developed, has caused much loss of life and distress.

* The local subscriptions are made up as follows :—
 From A. Hill, Esq., Hyderabad, Sind
 By proceeds of a Military Entertainment
 Amount received from City Magistrate

	R	a.	p.
From A. Hill, Esq., Hyderabad, Sind	100	0	0
By proceeds of a Military Entertainment	71	5	6
Amount received from City Magistrate	19	0	0
TOTAL	190	5	6

SHOLAPORE.

The Sholapore Collectorate, with an area of 4,542 square miles, lies between the Ahmednagar and Bijapur districts and borders on the Native State of Akalkot and Hyderabad Territory. The district is elevated and forms a sort of tableland intersected by shallow valleys which can yield rich crops when the rainfall is seasonable. The soil of the uplands is poor, and the whole district is almost treeless. The three most important rivers are not availed of for irrigation, and less than 100 square miles are protected by canals. The precarious rainfall of the whole district, except Barsi, places the population in an inferior condition to that of other Deccan districts, and scarcity approaching to famine is a common state of affairs. Half of the people are agriculturists, there is a great absence of thrift and economy amongst all classes and nearly everybody is in debt, while it is estimated that as many as 15 per cent. of the inhabitants are beggars by profession. Cultivation depends mainly on the amount and seasonableness of the late rains of August, September and October. The rainfall in June and July 1896 was timely and useful, but the subsequent failure caused the growing crops to wither, and though the partial fall in November permitted the *rabi* crop to be sown, the absence of the winter rains resulted in a very small yield. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that Sholapore proved to be one of the two districts in this Province which suffered most from the famine of 1896-97. As the Government measures of relief were organized in time to prevent any general deterioration of health from want, and were on a most extensive scale, there was not much scope for the fund to relieve actual cases of starvation. By far the greater portion of our grants was, it will be seen, expended under Head IV in helping poor cultivators who had lost all in the famine and would, but for the timely gift of cattle and seed, have had to throw up their lands and become day-labourers. In the words of Mr. W. T. Morison, the Collector of the District,

"The result has been that a large amount of land which would otherwise have remained unsown this year, is now bearing crops, and the effects of the famine have therefore been minimised to a very considerable extent. The Indian cultivator is proverbially a "growler" like the English farmer, and expressions of gratitude for anything any one may do for him are rarely heard from his mouth. But this year there has gone up, on every side, from the poor cultivators and labourers of the district, a chorus—one might almost say a prayer—of gratitude and thanksgiving for what has been done for them by Government, and also by the charitable *Saheb-loque* beyond the seas. To the Hindu, charity is the greatest of all virtues: indeed the same word in Marathi and most other vernaculars means both "religion" and "charity". If the subscribers at home to the fund could have seen any of the touching scenes, of which we district officers have been almost daily spectators,—when the recipients of this charity expressed their gratitude by falling down and clasping our feet, in tears,—they would be more than repaid for all they have done for this poverty-stricken district."

Receipts—		R	a.	p.
From Bombay	.	3,93,000	0	0
" Other Districts	.	10	0	0
" Local Subscriptions	.	1,460	0	0
" Miscellaneous Receipts	.	1,637	15	6
TOTAL		3,96,107	15	6

Expenditure—		R	a.	p.
Under Object I	.	28,397	10	7
" " II	.	581	2	1
" " III	.	13,796	1	10
" " IV	.	2,91,788	10	4
Miscellaneous	.	618	12	3
TOTAL		3,35,182	5	1

BELGAUM.

Belgaum, which lies to the south of the Native State of Kolhapore, and adjoins Dharwar, is one of the two most Southern Collectories of the Bombay Presidency and has not suffered greatly from famine. The south-west portion which forms about one-third of the district is practically secure from great distress induced by drought, but the Talukas in the north-east, which depend on the north-east rains, are liable to chronic drought, and it is in these that suffering was the greatest during the late famine. It is not necessary to write at length on this district.

	R	a.	p.
Receipts—			
1. Remitted from Bombay	15,000	0	0
2. Collected locally	6,389	8	0
3. Miscellaneous	3,687	6	5
TOTAL	25,076	14	5

	R	a.	p.
Expenditure—			
Under Head I	3,611	15	3
" " II	4	1	3
" " III	89	13	4
" " IV	17,475	10	7
Sundries	8	1	0
TOTAL	21,189	9	5

This district has since suffered severely from plague which has caused considerable distress, and it has been necessary to send further relief for people who are in a state of semi-starvation.

DHARWAR.

Dharwar which adjoins Mysore is the most southern district of the Bombay Presidency. Failure of rainfall and consequently famine are unknown in the hilly portions to the west and south, and only the open plain country is liable to severe distress from drought. The population is nearly purely agricultural and the condition of the cultivators compares favourably with that of neighbouring districts, the arable land being in a great measure free from encumbrances. The area most severely affected lies to the east and north-east of the district, and comprises the Talukas of Ron, Gadag and Navalgund. The condition of the cattle here was deplorable and fully 25 per cent. perished. During 1894-96 the outturn of crops in this tract was below the average, but the season of 1896-97 was disastrous. There was no rain during September and October and the *khari*f crops became worthless. The November rains were favourable and enabled the sowing of the *rabi* crops to be undertaken, but the winter rains proved insufficient to bring these crops to maturity and the ultimate failure of them was almost complete. The people emigrated in large numbers to the less distressed districts in the west and famine relief on a relatively large scale was not necessary in this district.

	R	a.	p.
Receipts—			
From the Provincial Funds	7,000	0	0

	R	a.	p.
Disbursements—			
Under Head I	1,768	0	3
" " II	73	12	9
" " III	209	7	2
" " IV	4,925	9	10
Miscellaneous	1	7	0
TOTAL	6,978	5	0

PART IV.

CONCLUSION.

In so far as this Presidency is concerned, the date which closes the period of the operations under our review does not, unfortunately, bring us to the conclusion of our troubles. The advent of the Plague into several districts, which were beginning to recover from the effects of the famine, has produced a continuation of the state of famine amongst a large section of the inhabitants. The free movement of people and goods, the flight of many of the wealthier members of the community, the dislocation of trade, and the want of employment for day labourers have combined to produce a state of affairs analogous to famine, although the prices of food-grains may no longer show what would be famine rates under ordinary circumstances.

Where a man has no money, however, is unable to earn any, and charitable support is denied, he may run as great a risk of starvation with bread at a penny as at six pence a loaf. These conditions we have now had to face, and, strictly within the limits laid down for our operations, there is still a considerable field for our activity.

Apart from the relief required for Plague-famine subjects, gloomy news reaches us from the southern part of the Deccan country where the kharif crops were a failure, and the rabi crops, owing to the absence of the usual winter rains, promise to yield but a very small outturn. We have to contemplate and prepare for another period of distress and scarcity in this part of the country, and it is not improbable that the whole of our unexpended resources will be required.

The prolongation of famine and the advent of the Plague have thrown upon all District Officers an enormous amount of additional work, and, as a consequence, the submission of the returns required for the purposes of this report have been much delayed. It has, therefore, we regret to admit, not been possible for us to make so full and complete a record of our operations as we had wished.

We trust, however, sufficient has been said to satisfy subscribers that we have not been unmindful of our obligations or secured other than the best possible results for the money which has been placed at our disposal. It will be satisfactory to them to know that the officer deputed by Government to audit the District Accounts, and placed under the orders of the Honorary Secretary for that purpose, was able, after careful examination in the districts themselves, to report that no improper uses were made of our funds, and that all items of expenditure were carefully, and, for the most part, accurately recorded.

In expressing our grateful thanks to the Collectors of districts and to all other District Officers, to the European and Native gentlemen, and last, but not least, to the ladies who were associated together in dispensing our charity, we would desire to record our appreciation of the devotion, forethought, ability, and conscientiousness with which the work has been carried out under circumstances of considerable difficulty and involving much personal labour and attention. It is owing to the effect of individual effort on behalf of the poverty-stricken people of the land that up to the end of the year in only eleven cases are there reasonable grounds for holding that death was due mainly to the want of food. Seven of these people did not belong to this Presidency, but wandered into it in a state of emaciation, and the rest, though belonging to the Presidency, were also wanderers, who would not stay on the works or take advantage of the relief provided for them.

It would be contrary to the order of things to expect any particular public expression of gratitude from the victims of famine for the relief they have received. In olden times they would have died from starvation as uncomplainingly as they had lived. It would have been a dispensation of Providence and their Fate, and that would have been the end of it. In many a little hamlet now, however, where the people know no world beyond fifteen or twenty miles of

their homesteads, feeble glimmerings are coming to them that the Sircâr and the white people from beyond the "black water" take a personal interest in their welfare, apart from the mere collection of taxes, and are ready to give them substantial assistance in times of scarcity. The astonishment period of this strange state of affairs is not yet over, and in an ignorant sort of way they throw the factor of ulterior motives into their calculations; but from those who have been in closer contact with civilisation, such as we understand it, but yet are proverbially undemonstrative and accustomed to accept the weals and woes of life with the same placid front, it is pleasant to note the spontaneous and heartfelt expressions of gratitude which have been accorded to those who have brought succour and relief.

The seeds of a kindlier sentiment, of a better understanding of our purposes and intentions have been sown, and the bond of amity between the rulers and the ruled has been strengthened.

The admirable fortitude and patience with which the people have, as a whole, endured the calamities they have experienced are qualities which merit prosperity, and, with an early return of favourable seasons, it is devoutly hoped that all traces of the present troubles may soon disappear from the land.

SANDHURST,

President.

G. COTTON,

Chairman.

D. Mackichan,
Bhalchandra Krishna,
Ghellabhai Haridass,
Cowasjee Hormusjee, G.G.M.C.,
George Lund,
S. M. Moses,
Bezonjee N. Capadia,

} Members of the Bombay Provincial Committee.

ARTHUR LESLIE,

Honorary Secretary.

Bombay, February 1898.

FORM B.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RE
Statement showing details of relief operations

	Bijapore.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandeish.	Satara.
OBJECT I.						
A.—Clothing, blankets, etc., to persons in receipt of Government relief, whether in poor-houses, kitchens, or outside.						
(i) <i>number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given :—</i>	<i>Number of persons.</i>					
(a) the articles being sent from England . . . . .	...	207	...	...	...	...
(b) the articles being provided by the Provincial Committee . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committees or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	27,388	41,945	7,269	8,542	3,698	5,825
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	27,388	42,152	7,269	8,542	3,698	5,825
NOTE.—						
	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>
(1) expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (c) above	30,850 13 8	13,112 5 0	7,991 5 3	5,701 3 3	3,531 7 9	9,107 15 5
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	22,317 10 4	7,823 1 9	6,141 1 8	...	1,844 10 6	...
(3) how much from petty shopkeepers	7,474 10 10	3,751 5 0	1,676 4 4	...	1,686 13 3	9,107 15 5
(4) how much in buying from large cloth-dealers	1,128 8 6	1,537 14 3	173 15 3	...	...	...
(ii) <i>number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing</i> . . . . .	...	2,264	34	...	...	297
<i>Amount so given</i> . . . . .	...	2,619 4 0	46 8 0	...	...	345 8 0
B.—Other expenditure in poor-houses or kitchens.						
(i) <i>maintaining poor-houses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them :—</i>						
(a) amount spent in building and furnishing poor-houses or kitchens . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) establishment charges . . . . .	...	...	...	...	63 2 5	213 1 8
(c) conveying paupers to poor-houses . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) rations and comforts . . . . .	...	...	131 10 6	...	943 2 0	683 4 7
(e) other expenditure (with details) . . . . .	...	...	25 0 0	...	4 14 6 (cart hire, etc.)	4,326 11 0
TOTAL UNDER B . . . . .	...	...	156 10 6	...	1,011 2 11	5,223 1 3
Carried forward	30,850 13 8	15,731 9 0	8,194 7 9	5,701 3 3	4,542 10 8	14,676 8 8

B.

LIEF FUND, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

from the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

Poona	Belgaum	Dharwar.	Kolaba	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha.	Thana.	Bombay (Plague Committee).	Total
303	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	
7,288	3,414	2,528	1,124	...	...	...
7,591	3,414	2,528	1,124	...	...	...
<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>				
5,679 6 9	3,219 13 6	1,086 14 0	1,206 1 6	...	...	...	8
434 8 0	2,026 11 6	...	...	...	...	...
3,268 4 9	435 2 3	1,086 14 0	1,206 1 6	...	...	...
1,926 10 0	757 15 9		...	...	...	...
...	...	18	...	...	...	...
...	...	46 0 0	...	...	...	...
...	
...	
...	...	...	0 8 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	880 8 10	...	...	...
...	
...	...	...	881 0 10	...	...	...
5,679 6 9	3,219 13 6	1,132 14 0	2,087 2 4	...	...	...

	Bijapore.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Brought forward . . .	30,850 13 8	15,731 9 0	8,194 7 9	5,701 3 3	4,542 10 8	14,676 8 8
NOTE.—						
(1) length of time during which poor-house and kitchen was open . . .	...	...	...	...	152 days.	{ From 29-4-97 To 1-11-97
(2) total number of persons who came to the poor-house and kitchen . . .	...	...	...	...	1,690	19,769
(3) highest number in poor-house and kitchen on any one day . . .	...	...	...	...	203 on 30th August.	782
(4) average daily number of inmates . . .	...	...	...	...	175	318
(ii) provision of "comforts" in Government poor-houses—						
(a) cost of milk-supply . . .	...	18 5 6	232 3 0	...	0 11 3	...
(b) purchase of lime juice and other comforts . . .	...	...	216 12 10	...	...	...
(c) money distributed for purchase of additional food . . .	387 15 7	...	149 9 9	...	...	...
(d) other expenditure (with details) . . .	...	72 5 3 (Grain and clothing.)	203 11 7 (Medical comforts, etc.)	...	167 6 1 (Increased ration to the weak children.)	...
TOTAL . . .	387 15 7	90 10 9	801 5 2	...	168 1 4	...
NOTE.—						
(1) length of time during which comforts were provided . . .	7 months.	8 months.	6 months.	...	...	...
(2) total number of persons who were provided with comforts . . .	791	1,698	96	...	...	...
(3) average daily number supplied—						
A with milk { children . . .	...	48	11	...	...	...
{ others . . .	...	7	2	...	...	...
B with other comforts . . .	369	3	28	...	...	...
C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poor-houses.						
(i) Supplementing the famine wage on relief works—						
(a) total amount so expended . . .	379 14 0	4,055 7 1	462 0 7	...	...	...
(b) period during which it was expended . . .	7 months.	4 months and 8 days.	6 months.	...	...	...
(c) total number of payments made . . .	1,203	11,383	...	...	...	...
(d) average number each day—						
A men . . .	0.43	18	40	...	...	...
B women . . .	1.64	15	1	...	...	...
C children . . .	3.54	12	31	...	...	...
(ii) Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief—						
(a) Total amount so expended . . .	...	1,378 12 6	95 3 6	...	...	...
(b) Period during which it was expended . . .	...	5 months and 10 days.	6 months.	...	...	...
(c) Total number of payments made . . .	...	2,929	115	...	...	...
(d) Average number per month or fortnight (according as the dole was monthly or fortnightly) of persons whose dole was increased . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carried forward . . .	31,618 11 3	21,256 7 4	9,553 1 0	5,701 3 3	4,710 12 0	14,676 8 8

Poona.	Belgaum.	Dharwar.	Kolaba.	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha.	Thana.	Bombay (Plague Committee).	TOTAL.
R a p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.			R a. p.	R a. p.
5,679 6 9	3,219 13 6	1,132 14 0	2,087 2 4	...	..	...	91,816 9 7
...
...	21,468
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...	1,448 0 10
...
...	2,585
...
...
...
...	4,659 7 8	9,556 13 4
...	2 months and 7 days. Sixty-eight.	...
...	385	...
...	155	...
...	45	...
...	1,474 0 0
...
...
5,679 6 9	3,219 13 6	1,132 14 0	2,087 2 4	...	...	4,659 7 8	1,04,295 7 9

				Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.		
				R a p.	R a p.	R a p.	R a p.	R a p.	R a p.		
Brought forward				31,618 11 3	21,256 7 4	9,553 1 0	5,701 3 3	4,710 12 0	14,676 8 5		
(iii) providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works—											
(a) Total amount so expended				1,557 1 11	7,122 8 5	1,197 10 1	...	30 6 6	...		
(b) Period during which it was expended				7 months	4 months and 10 days.	6 months.	...	About 5 weeks.	...		
(c) Average number for each day—								} Not available			
A children				19-36	82	100	...				
B aged persons				...	11	55	...				
C infirm persons				...	19	45	...				
D.—Other relief under heading "Object I.",—such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief Works or to their own villages. Grants made to poor people out of relief officers' imprests.											
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Nature.	Period.	Amount.	No. of persons.	Nature.	Period.	Amount.	No. of persons.
BIJAPUR DISTRICT.				Assistance for sending men to Relief Works.	10 days	Rs 10 10	28	Assistance to inmates of the poor house to go to Relief Works sending men to their villages, etc.	8 months.	Rs 410 10 8	2,602
Casual donations to destitute poor	7 months.	4,649 7 11	3,937								

Poona.	Belgaum.	Dharwar.	Kolaba.	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha.	Thana.	Bombay (Plague Committee).	TOTAL.
R a p. 5,679 6 9	R a p. 3,219 13 6	R a p. 1,132 14 0	R a p. 2,087 2 4	R a p. ...	R a p. ...	R a p. 4,659 7 8	R a p. 1,04,295 7 9
...	42 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	9,950 0 11
...	4 months.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	} 50 persons in all.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	
...	
...	
Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.	Nature. Period. Amount. No. of per- sons.
Assistance to wanderers and peasants seeking relief. April to October. Rs. 668 2 5 2,773	Food of famine stricken pa- trons in the Hospitals at Belgaum. 4 months. Rs. 19 0 0 91	Provision of grain. From 25th May to 31st October. Rs. 5 3 3 19	...	...	...	...	...
Assistance to Kulis to enable them to go home after clos- ing of Relief Work. April to October. Rs. 52 3 6 799	Food to destitute. one day. Rs. 11 3 5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grants made by the members of the Sirur Committee. 5 months. Rs. 703 4 0 201	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grain Assistance to poor per- sons. April to September. Rs. 1,155 7 10 1,558	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Amount given to the Village Education Society's Boarding in relief of free boarders. 3 months. Rs. 150 0 0 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7,326 1 9 5,367	249 11 9 99	635 2 3 819	...	...	...	...	38,845 3 8 43,215
13,005 8 6	3,611 15 3	1,768 0 3	2,087 2 4	...	...	4,659 7 8	1,53,090 12 4

				Dhampur.			Sholapur.			Ahmednagar.			Nasik.			Khandesh.			Satara.		
Brought forward				R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
OBJECT II.—ORPHANS.				37,825	5	1	28,397	10	7	14,161	5	9	5,701	3	3	26,415	14	0	15,457	3	8
(i) expenditure during the famine—																					
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.	Period.	Amount.	Number of orphans.
Subsidies to Orphanages	R42 4 0	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Construction of Orphanages
Maintenance of Orphans in Fund Orphanages	2 months and 22 days.	RS1 2 1	118	4 months.	R90 5 4	18 average.	...	RS3 13 0	10	...	...	...	...	RS 7 0	5
Conveyance of orphans to their homes
Education of orphans	3 months.	R15 0 0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	8 months.	R408 1 5	175	...	...	...	July to October.	R229 13 4	387	...	R80 0 0	25
TOTAL	RS1 2 1	...	...	R555 10 9	...	...	RS3 13 0	...	...	R429 13 4	...	...	R95 3 0	...
No. of Orphans	118	...	...	255	...	...	10	...	...	391	...	...	72
(ii) number of orphans to whom clothes were given—																					
(a) the articles being sent from England . . . .				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee . . . .				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committee or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee . . . .				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	R1 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carried over				37,825	5	1	28,478	12	8	14,718	3	6	5,755	0	3	26,845	11	4	15,552	6	8

[illegible]

	Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandeish.	Satara.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Brought forward	37,825 5 1	28,478 12 8	14,718 3 6	5,755 0 3	26,845 11 4	15,552 6 8
(ii) relief after the famine—						
(a) number of orphans already provided for—						
If possible, state—						
	Males.	Females.	Total.			
(b) ages of such orphans—under 1 year—						
over 1 and under 3 years—	...	...	...	...	...	...
over 3 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...
over 5 and under 10 years	...	...	...	...	...	...
over 10 years	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Brief statement of arrangements made for maintenance till such orphans become self-supporting.	...	R500 paid to the Orphanage and Foundling Institution at Pandharpur as an assistance of the fund.	Two orphans already known to the District Committee. One has been allowed R5 a month till it becomes self-supporting, and the other is given in charge of a gentleman R. B. Nathu Bapujee. All the Mamlatdars have been directed to pay R5 per mensem to persons in charge of orphans.	Paid for support and education of 30 orphans sent to the Nasik Orphanage.	...	...
(d) Sum paid for such arrangements	Nil.	R500 debited in the Accounts.	R2,000 reserved. This item is not debited in the Accounts.	R10,000 0 0	...	...
OBJECT III.						
A.—Supply of clothing to respectable poor, not in receipt of Government relief—						
(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing were given—	No. of persons.					
(a) the articles being sent from England	...	...	250	...	...	...
(b) the articles provided by the Provincial Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	16,715	10,020	1,017	7,470	3,571	...
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	16,715	10,020	1,267	7,470	3,571	...
Carried over	37,825 5 1	28,978 12 8	14,718 3 6	15,755 0 3	26,845 11 4	15,552 6

	Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandeish.	Satara.
	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i>
NOTE.— Brought forward	37,825 5 1	28,978 12 8	14,718 3 6	15,755 0 3	26,845 11 4	15,552 6 8
(1) expenditure incurred under (c) above	16,740 4 2	2,767 0 3	1,181 6 0	7,751 5 5	3,737 15 5	...
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	12,520 7 11	1,635 6 3	1,118 3 6	...	1,046 0 8	...
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers.	4,219 12 3	1,119 6 0	63 2 6	...	2,055 10 5	...
(4) how much from large cloth-dealers.	...	12 4 0	...	...	636 4 4	...
(ii) number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing; amount so given	Nil.	394 12 5 No. of persons 241	...	...	...	155 0 0 No. of persons 28
B.—PROVISION OF WORK TO RESPECTABLE POOR (other than that shown under heading "Object IV" below, as provided for professional workman).	...	...	...	...	...	...
(i) work given out, to be returned to the Committee—						
(a) nature of work offered	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) number of people supplied with materials	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) cost of materials	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) quantity of finished product returned by them.	...	...	...	...	...	...
(e) amount paid for their labour	...	...	...	...	...	...
(f) amount received by sale of the produce	...	...	...	...	...	...
(g) profit or loss to the Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) work given out to be sold by the workers—						
(a) nature of work given	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) number of people supplied with materials	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) amount expended	...	...	...	...	...	...
C.—Grain or cooked food doles to respectable poor—						
(i) period during which this relief was given	5 months	6 months	8 months	...	April to Oct.	...
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles	423	1,184	4,953	...	5,204	...
(iii) rates of the doles	3 5 0	...	about $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per adult per day. about $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per child per day.	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb per diem in case of cooked food, 1 to 2 bread daily.	...
(iv) at what intervals given	1 month	monthly.	Weekly.	...	Weekly or fortnightly.	...
(v) amount expended	1,400 9 0	2,125 15 10	13,984 12 8	...	10,453 8 1	...
D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food—						
(i) period during which this relief was given	7 months	3 months and 10 days.	7 months	...	April to October.	8 months
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of dole: average monthly number of families	1,652	1,134	3,240	...	3,327	1,746
(iii) rates of the doles (average)	3 8 10	...	} average Rs 3 per month.	...	6 pies to 2 annas per diem.	...
(iv) at what intervals given	1 month	monthly.		...	Weekly or fortnightly.	once a month
(v) amount expended	41,048 12 5	8,091 14 1	6,368 5 4	...	11,255 10 3	3,444 12 6
Carried over	97,014 14 8	42,358 7 3	36,252 11 6	23,506 5 8	52,292 13 1	19,152 3 2

Poona.	Belgaum.	Dharwar.	Kolaba.	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kanba.	Thana.	Bombay (Plague Committee).	TOTAL.
R a. p. 14,276 14 2	R a. p. 3,616 0 6	R a. p. 1,841 13 0	R a. p. 2,088 14 4	R a. p.	R a. p. 15 6 9	R a. p. 4,659 7 8	R a. p. 1,66,173 15 11
889 12 4	...	...	...	...	7 6 0	...	33,074 11 7
10 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
389 4 4	...	...	...	...	7 0 0	...	...
490 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 0 0 No. of persons 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	579 12 5 No. of persons 284
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
From 6th March to 31st October.	Once only.	...	18 days	...	13th September to 31st October.	...	...
411	68	...	30	...	33-5	...	...
1lb of wheat flour.	2lb per adult and 1lb for boy or girl.	...	0 2 6 for adult 0 2 0 for fe- males 0 1 6 for children above 7 years. 0 1 0 for chil- dren under 7 years. Daily.	...	36 tolas to each aged. 18 tolas to above 7 years. 9 tolas to under 7 years.	...	...
Once a week.	Once.	...	...	...	Daily.	...	...
5,176 8 9	53 13 4	...	449 0 10	...	60 4 6	...	33,704 9 0
From 6th March to 31st October.	Once only.	...	15 days.	...	...	...	...
1,095	19	...	69	...	...	...	...
R4 per month or sums varying from R1 to R11 per month.	...	...	not fixed.	...	...	...	...
2,801 13 6	36 0 0	...	135 9 0	...	...	...	73,182 13 1
23,175 0 9	3,705 13 10	1,841 13 0	2,673 8 2	...	82 11 3	4,659 7 8	3,06,715 14 0

	Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.
Brought over	R a. p. 97,614 14 8	R a. p. 42,368 7 3	R a. p. 38,252 11 6	R a. p. 23,600 5 8	R a. p. 52,392 13 1	R a. p. 10,152 3 2
E.—Cheap grain shops—						
(1) Number and localities of grain shops	1 grain shop at Bijapur.	1 grain shop at Sholapur.	2 grain shops, one at Kunlar Taluka and the other at the Ahmednagar City.	2 grain shops	...	...
(2) Period during which relief was given	3 months	1 month	From 19th October 1890 to still continued.	...	...	...
(3) Net amount expended from the fund during that period	4,148 10 0	R410-7-3	R9,828 1 9	4,100 0 0	...	...
(4) Excess of privileged rate over market rate (in seers or lbs. per rupee)	2lb to 4lb	$\frac{1}{4}$ of seer over market rate. R45-13-0 given for repairs and other expenditure for the shop.	2lb. on an average.	...	...	...
(5) Average number of persons relieved during each month of the period.	1,843-8	R370-10-3 were given to make up the loss incurred by the excess rate.	8,100	...	...	...
F.—Other relief under heading "Object III."						
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.			
		R a. p.		Nature.	Period.	Amount.
				One lame woman was given a pair of shoes.	one day.	R 0 6 4
				Audience in money to respectable but poor persons.	One day.	R 15
TOTAL				...	...	...
Carried over				1,01,103 8 8	42,774 14 6	46,078 13 3
				27,006 5 8	52,393 2 5	19,670 3 2

Poona.				Belgaum.				Dharwar.				Kolaba.				Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha.				Thana.				Bombay (Plague Committee).				TOTAL.			
R a. p. 23,175 0 9				R a. p. 3,705 13 10				R a. p. 1,841 13 0				R a. p. 2,673 8 2				R a. p.				R a. p. 82 11 3				R a. p. 4,659 7 8				R a. p. 3,06,715 14 0			
...						
...						
...						
...				...				...				...				...				...				...				18,491 3 0			
...						
Amount paid to respectable persons for maintenance and other necessities except clothing in Parandhar Taluk.				Amount paid to respectable persons for maintenance and other necessities except clothing in Shir Taluk.				Maintenance of respectable poor who would endure any privation rather than apply for Government relief.				Purchase of grain for relieving the poor helpless people.				Charity.															
5 months.				2 months.				25th May to 31st October.				15th July to 31st October.				2 months.															
R227 0 0				R253 0 0				R209 7 2				R403 14 1				R354 0 7															
32				53				5				202				478															
480 0 0				...				209 7 2				...				403 14 1				...				354 0 7				1,965 11 2			
23,655 0 9				3,705 13 10				2,051 4 2				2,673 8 2				403 14 1				82 11 3				5,013 8 3				3,27,172 12 2			

	Bija Pur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Brought forward	1,01,163 8 8	42,77 14 6	46,078 13 3	27,000 5 8	52,293 2 5	19,870 3 2
OBJECT IV.						
A.—Provision of employment to professional workmen.						
<i>(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee—</i>						
(a) nature of employments assisted						
(b) number of people supplied with money or materials
(c) cost of materials (or money advances)
(d) quantities of finished products returned by them
(e) amount paid for their labour.
(f) amount received by sale of products
<i>(ii) Assistance in providing materials for work to be sold by the workers—</i>						
(a) nature of employments assisted
(b) number of people supplied with materials	707	...	...	...
(c) cost of such materials	6,070 0 0	...	...	...
(d) number of people who received money gifts	33	...	...	56
(e) amount of such gifts	510 0 0	...	...	248 0 0
B.—Assistance towards building or repairing of houses.						
(i) number of people assisted	14	...	Seven.	...
(ii) causes of destruction of houses (fire, want, etc.)	By fire.	...	By fire.	...
(iii) amount expended	155 0 0	...	14 0 0	...
Carried over	1,01,163 8 8	42,774 14 6	52,813 13 3	27,006 5 8	52,307 2 5	19,918 3 2

	Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Brought forward	1,01,163 8 8	42,774 14 6	52,813 13 3	27,606 5 8	52,307 2 5	19,918 3 2
C.—Assistance where only MONEY grants have been given by provision of cattle, seed-grain, etc., to cultivators—						
(i) number of cultivators assisted—	22,405	27,610	32,026	3,069	3,273	22,639
(ii) (roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone	...	5,753	2,707 + 45 gaulies (milkmen).	...	157	275
Ditto ditto of seed-grain alone	1,907	20,475	24,419	...	2,011	12,123
Ditto for fodder subsistence of cattle alone	...	1,153	363	...	94	750
Ditto ditto cultivator and family alone	2	174	4,244	...	12	4,637
Ditto wages to labourers alone	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto for more than one of the above objects	20,496	59	1,148	...	996	2,024 2,825. Details not given by the District Deputy Collector.
(iii) amount of gifts made	1,41,378 2 6	97,758 8 1	2,02,051 3 1	18,313 8 0	30,672 7 0	71,728 8 0
(iv) (roughly) how much for purchase of cattle	40,700 11 0	20,799 0 0	77,131 0 0 2,000 0 0 for gaulies.	...	6,534 15 0	4,498
Ditto ditto seed-grain.	88,065 3 6	47,256 10 9	90,339 11 1	...	17,055 0 0	32,776 0 0
Ditto subsistence of cattle	9,293 8 0	26,887 15 1	1,395 8 0	...	159 0 0	3,845 0 0
Ditto ditto cultivator and family	3,318 12 0	1,993 0 0	25,482 0 0	...	1,267 0 0	15,949 8 0
Ditto wages to labourers	...	821 14 3	...	...	5 0 0	...
For more than one of the above objects	...	...	...	...	5,621 8 0	14,660 0 0 Details not given by the District Deputy Collector.
D.—Assistance to cultivators by grants IN KIND—						
(1) Number of cattle purchased	2,394	5,525	...	...	254	...
(2) Price of ditto	66,024 15 5	1,23,974 4 5	...	...	3,923 2 0	...
(3) Number of cultivators assisted by grants or loans of cattle (estimated)	2,170	5,753	...	...	197	...
(ii) SEED—						
(i) Quantity of seed purchased	(Not known.)	2,129 maunds.	...	...	136½ mds. of grain and 1,968 lbs.	...
(ii) Price of ditto	9,241 13 8	30,493 4 9	...	...	8,517 5 8	...
(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed	2,875	10,702	...	...	4,384	...
(iii) FODDER—						
(a) Net expenditure on fodder bought from Government and sold at cheap rates or given away	1,859 10 9	...	2,398 7 0	...	...	...
(b) Net expenditure on fodder received from Provincial Committee or locally purchased and sold at cheap rates or given away	153 2 0	30,562 9 1	...	...	...	...
Carried over	3,19,821 5 0	3,34,563 8 10	2,57,863 7 4	45,919 14 2	95,420 1 1	91,646 11 2

* Cost of cattle delivered in the District Rs7,235 13 10

Expenses on feeding, etc. Rs,789 1 7

Poona.	Belgaum.	Dharwar.	Kolaba.	Punch Mahals and Bewa Kantha.	Thana.	Bombay (Plague Committee).	Total.
<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 23,673 0 9	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 13,376 3 9	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 2,051 4 2	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 2,673 8 2	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 403 14 1	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 82 11 3	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> <i>p.</i> 5,013 8 3	<i>R</i> <i>a.</i> 3,43,858 2
9,962	1,557	388	11	1,318	...	...	1,25,167
...	36	257	7	...	...	...	...
1,476	283	131	4	1,318	...	...	...
22	133	...	...	...	...	...	...
5,185	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,510	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,769	1,105	...	...	...	...	...	...
26,542 4 3	7,474 15 6	4,677 9 4	140 0 0	2,276 0 6	...	...	6,03,613 2 9
...	2,746 12 0 for hire of cattle.	4,054 0 4	100 0 0	...	...	...	...
7,986 11 3	3,523 12 0	623 9 0	40 0 0	2,276 0 6	...	...	...
479 0 0	1,204 7 6	...	...	...	...	...	...
14,522 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
144 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3,410 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	7	10	...	...	...	...	...
...	224 6 0	248 0 6	...	...	...	...	1,94,394 12 4
...	7	10	...	...	...	...	8,137
...	1,768 Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	105 15 2	...	...	...	...	...	48,358 7 3
...	13	...	...	...	...	...	17,974
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,253 1 9
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,715 11 1
50,215 5 0	21,181 8 5	6,976 14 0	2,813 8 2	2,679 14 7	82 11 3	5,013 8 3	1,231,198 5 3

	Bijapur.	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Nasik.	Khandesh.	Satara.
Brought forward	R a. p. 3,19,821 5 0	R a. p. 3,31,563 8 10	R a. p. 2,57,863 7 4	R a. p. 45,919 14 2	R a. p. 95,420 1 1	R a. p. 91,646 11 2
(iii) FODDER—						
(c) Total value of money grants made for purchases	...	...	...	...	235 8 6	...
(d) Total number of free grants made of fodder in kind	1,064	511	...	...	...	...
(e) Total number of grants of fodder in kind made at reduced prices	...	...	...	...	...	...
(f) Total number of money grants made for purchase of fodder alone	...	617	...	...	114	...
(g) Totals of (d), (e) and (f) showing total number of persons assisted with fodder	1,064	1,158	805	...	114	...
E.—Loans recoverable.						
(a) To agriculturists— Amount	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) To others— Amount	...	...	...	...	...	...
F.—Other expenditure under heading "Object IV"—						
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.			
		R a. p.				
TOTAL					98 8 0	
OBJECT V.—Miscellaneous.						
(a) Office and contingent expenditure	239 0 3	567 8 6	537 0 10	98 9 0	76 12 4	...
(b) Printing	4 14 0	51 3 9	216 1 3	...	...	Carrying charge
	53 8 8½	...	87 10 3 Cartage, railway charges, etc.	...	...	1 4 0
TOTAL	297 6 11	618 12 3	840 12 4	98 9 0	76 12 4	1 4 0
TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS	3,20,118 11 11	3,35,182 5 1	2,58,704 3 8	46,019 7 2	95,800 13 11	91,647 15 2

* See entry No. 4 of the Note under heading B of Object 1, in Form B.
† The sum spent on wells will shortly be refunded.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BOMBAY.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

ARTHUR LESLIE,

Honorary Secretary,

Bombay Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BOMBAY.

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha . . . .	.	7,874 13 6	...	...	7,874 13 6
2	Bijapore . . . .	...	6,385 0 0	4,28,010 0 0	...	4,34,395 0 0
3	Sholapore . . . .	...	1,460 0 0	3,93,010 0 0	1,637 15 6	3,96,107 15 6
4	Ahmednagar . . . .	...	10,104 12 0	3,30,000 0 0	...	3,40,104 12 0
5	Nasik . . . .	...	...	85,000 0 0	1,515 8 1	86,515 8 1
6	Khandeish . . . .	...	11,500 11 1	86,000 0 0	...	97,500 11 1
7	Satara . . . .	...	22 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	...	1,00,022 0 0
8	Poona . . . .	...	190 5 6	75,000 0 0	10 8 0	75,200 13 6
9	Belgaum . . . .	...	6,389 8 0	15,000 0 0	3,687 6 5	25,076 14 5
10	Dharwar . . . .	...	...	7,000 0 0	...	7,000 0 0
11	Kolaba . . . .	...	...	11,000 0 0	...	11,000 0 0
12	Thana . . . .	...	1,175 0 0	...	..	1,175 0 0
13	Bombay (Plague Committee)	...	...	10,000 0 0	...	10,000 0 0
	TOTAL R .	...	45,102 2 1	15 40,020 0 0	6,851 6 0	15,91,973 8 1

ARTHUR LESLIE,

*Honorary Secretary,**Bombay Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BOMBAY.

Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

PAYMENTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
		Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balances.	TOTAL.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a.
1	Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha . . .	...	...	403 14 1	2,276 0 6	1 0 6	2,680 15 1	5,193 14 5	7,874 13
2	Bijapore . . .	37,825 5 1	...	63,338 3 7	2,18,657 12 4	297 6 11	3,20,118 11 11	1,14,276 4 1	4,34,395 0
3	Sholapore . . .	28,397 10 7	581 2 1	13,796 1 10	2,91,788 10 4	618 12 3	3,35,182 5 1	60,925 10 5	3,96,107 1
4	Ahmednagar . . .	14,161 5 9	556 13 9	31,360 9 9	2,11,784 10 1	840 12 4	2,58,704 3 8	81,400 8 4	3,40,104 12
	Nasik . . .	5,701 3 7	10,000 13 0	11,851 5 5	18,313 8 6	98 9 0	46,018 7 2	40,497 0 11	86,515 8
6	Khandeish . . .	26,415 14 0	429 13 4	25,447 7 1	43,430 15 2	76 12 4	95,800 13 11	1,699 13 2	97,500 11
7	Satara . . .	15,457 3 8	95 3 0	4,117 12 6	71,976 8 0	1 4 0	91,647 15 2	8,374 0 10	1,00,022 0
8	Poona . . .	13,005 8 6	1,271 5 8	9,378 2 7	28,482 8 3	7 2 0	52,144 11 0	23,056 2 6	75,200 13
9	Belgaum . . .	3,611 15 3	4 1 3	89 13 4	17,475 10 7	8 1 0	21,189 9 5	3,887 5 0	25,076 14
10	Dharwar . . .	1,768 0 3	73 12 9	209 7 2	4,925 9 10	1 7 0	6,978 5 0	21 11 0	7,000 0
11	Kolaba . . .	2,087 2 4	1 12 0	584 9 10	140 0 0	...	2,813 8 2	8,186 7 10	11,000 0
12	Thana . . .	...	15 6 9	67 4 6	...	...	82 11 3	1,092 4 9	1,175 0
13	Bombay (Plague Committee) . . .	4,659 7 8	...	354 0 7	...	...	5,013 8 3	4,986 7 9	10,000 0
	TOTAL R	1,53,090 12 4	13,083 3 7	1,60,998 12 3	9,09,251 13 7	1,951 3 4	12,38,375 13 1	3,53,597 11 0	15,91,973 8

* Owing to delay in submitting the necessary returns these figures must be taken as approximate only.

ARTHUR LESLIE,

Honorary Secretary,

Bombay Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.
PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BOMBAY.

[illegible]

* Ear-marked for retention in the Districts Belonging to the General Fund	<i>R</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
.	2,781	9	2
.	1,813	54	9
	<hr/>		
	1,84,136	2	11

ARTHUR LESLIE,

Honorary Secretary,

Bombay Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

FINAL REPORTS NO. 1 (MADRAS).

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

MADRAS PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

Report on the Operations of the Executive Committee.

Referring to your Circular of the 16th September 1897, the Executive Committee has the pleasure to submit a report of its operations from the commencement up to 31st October last. This is accompanied by the various accounts and returns laid down by the Central Committee, as well as by other enclosures specified in the list appended hereto.

Briefly stated, the total receipts of this Committee, from local subscriptions and from grants made to it by the Central Committee, aggregated R15,18,182, while its expenditure under all heads up to 31st October was R9,93,507. The receipts and disbursements between November 1st and December 15th, during which period the bulk of the disbursements under Head IV was made, amounted to R4,856-4-6 and R3,75,119 respectively. The amount spent on working charges for both collection and expenditure has been R6,339, which amounts to only 41 per cent. of its funds, and 46 per cent. of its expenditure. The balance which will remain in its hands on 31st December is estimated at about R30,000. This has been reserved for dealing with the recrudescence of distress, which will occur in certain areas owing to the failure of the North-East monsoon of 1897. The balance, small as it is, will do something to enable the Committee to relieve the distress that is coming. Its existence is due to the severe restrictions which it was found necessary to impose on the expenditure for the relief of general distress (Heads I and III) during the first half of the period under review, owing to the smallness of the allotments at first made to Madras.

I

EXTENT OF THE DISTRESSED AREA.

The districts which were most severely affected included Bellary, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah in the Deccan, and the two northern districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam.

DISTRICTS.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES		POPULATION	
	Of the district.	Of the affected portion.	Of the district.	Of the affected portion.
Four Deccan districts	17,828	12,963	2,579,000	1,788,000
Two northern districts	3,450	2,992	1,472,445	1,224,445
GRAND TOTAL	21,278	15,955	4,051,445	3,012,445

The whole of the above famine area is intersected by railways. The area of distress considerably exceeds the extent above given.

As to the Deccan, all the districts lie within the famine zone of the Presidency. The areas which were officially recognized to be seriously affected occupy a broad band including the north-west part of Cuddapah, the portion of Kurnool immediately adjoining on the north, nearly the whole of Anantapur and Bellary, and a tract of country adjoining the latter and stretching up in a north-easterly direction towards the town of Kurnool. In 1888 the Government observed that the districts of Bellary and Anantapur "are the poorest and most backward in the Presidency, the most sterile and the most subject to drought; the ryots pay the present revenue with difficulty; and they have as yet, far from fully recovered from the famine" of 1877-78. These words are mere common-places, and they would apply equally well to the affected portions of Kurnool and Cuddapah.

The following, extracted from the official Statistical Atlas, gives the famine histories of these districts:—

Kurnool.—Since the beginning of the century, the district has suffered eight times from famine, *viz.*, in the years 1804, 1810, 1824, 1833, 1853-54, 1866, 1876-78 and again in 1891-92. In 1873-74 also, parts of the district suffered, and in 1884 there was distress over a large area, whilst in many other years the scanty or unseasonable nature of the rainfall has caused more or less widespread loss or injury of crop.

The whole district is liable to famine, and the outturn of all but a small proportion of the crop on the cultivated area is precarious.

Bellary.—The whole district lies within the famine zone. The earliest famine recorded was that of 1792-93; and since the beginning of the century there have been famines in 1803, 1824, 1833, 1853-54, 1866 and 1876-78 and again in 1891-92. In 1838, 1844, 1881, 1884 and 1888 also, the seasons were very unfavourable over the whole or parts of the district, and in many other years the rainfall has been scanty or unseasonable. Occasionally severe floods occur, but the rainfall is usually scanty and is always uncertain, and it is only on the small strip of land (11,500 acres) irrigated by the Tungabhadra channels that the crop can be considered as safe in all seasons.

Anantapur.—The whole district lies within the famine zone. The earliest famine on record is that of 1792-93; in 1803 there was scarcity amounting to famine; in 1823 famine was anticipated and relief works started; in 1832-33 both monsoons failed and the year was the worst on record up to that time; 1838 was almost a famine year; in 1843 the rainfall was small and unseasonable; in 1844 both monsoons failed, and in 1845 the seasons were again very bad; 1853-54 were famine years; in 1865 distress was anticipated and was followed by famine in 1866; from 1876 to 1878 the last great famine raged; in 1884 relief works had again to be started, and in 1891-92 the district narrowly escaped from severe distress. In many other years the seasons were described as unfavourable and in some remissions of the revenue on dry lands were granted.

Cuddapah.—The greater part of the district lies within the famine zone of the Presidency, the only taluks which are not distinctly included in it being those which form the eastern section. Between 1800 and 1802 considerable distress prevailed in the district; in 1805-1807 the distress generally prevalent in the Presidency extended to the district, but was not so pressing as in the earlier years mentioned. In 1823-24 and in 1833 famine again prevailed. In 1865-66, although crops were scanty and prices very high, no actual famine occurred; but in 1876-78 famine extended to all parts of the district, the sub-division, that is the southern section of the district, suffering most acutely. Again in 1891-92 there was severe distress owing to the failure of crop in parts of the eastern and the southern sections, and relief works were opened on a considerable scale. At all times the latter section is much the most liable to distress caused by failure of crops, owing to the thinness and poverty of the soil.

The area now being dealt with is 12,963 square miles, with a population of 1,788,000. Its condition may be judged of when it is stated that the population has never yet reached that existing before the great famine of 1877-78, which swept away more than a third of the population. Unfavourable seasons, distress, and absolute famine have combined to arrest its recovery.

The average rainfall is generally less than 25 inches. Around and near the town of Bellary it is less than 20 inches. The showers of the South-West monsoon, and of the retreating current, which goes by the name of the North-East monsoon, begins in May, and ought to last until November. In the year which is gone, the average for the affected area in each of the districts was, Bellary 12·6 inches, Anantapur 13·8 inches, Kurnool 14·3 inches, and Cuddapah 13·9 inches. In reality, however, the season was much worse than these figures represent. For the South-West monsoon began fairly well, but suddenly ceased at the end of August, or just before the heaviest rains are required. To make matters still worse, the North-East monsoon was a failure. The breadth of land, which was brought under the plough owing to the hopeful way in which the rains began, was large, and the ryots suffered heavily through the loss of the seed and the expenditure incurred on a fruitless cultivation. The deficiency in the rainfall in Kudligi, Bellary district, was nearly similar to that of 1877-78, and that in Hospet taluk was not much better, while in the five northern taluks of Anantapur the

rainfall was far less than in the two preceding famine years, 1884-85 and 1891-92. The few light showers, which were all that the Deccan received from the long deferred North-East monsoon in December, stimulated further vast sowings. In the black cotton soils these consisted of cholum and Bengal gram. Seed and labour were thus again thrown away, for the yield was little more than fodder. This freak of the North-East monsoon therefore aggravated the disaster. An example taken from the five northern taluks of the Anantapur district may be useful as illustrating the result of this famine to the ryot. The total holdings aggregate 958,719 acres. On 676,561 of these there was either no cultivation or withered crop or yield under 2 annas, which is practically total loss. That accounts for 84 per cent. The rest yielded 2 annas and over, but was at the best most inferior. It may be mentioned in explanation of this notation that a full crop is quoted at 20 annas, and an average one at 16 annas.

It is not proposed to swell this paper with a mass of statistics referring to the rest of the Deccan. They would amount merely to the repetition of much the same tale in respect of each district analysed.

Writing on the 29th of March last, the Board of Revenue gave the following description of the various crops usually raised in the area forming the famine zone, and of their fate this year, which is so succinct, and has, in so far as it was a forecast, turned out so accurate, that no apology seems required for reproducing it here.

"Almost throughout the area under reference, cholum (*Sorghum vulgare*) is the principal food-grain grown. Of this, there are two principal varieties: an early one, grown on the lighter soils, and a late one grown on the black cotton soils. In the affected taluks of Cuddapah, this crop occupies over 40 per cent. of the total area cultivated, while the area under korra (*Setaria italica*) is also considerable. The chief industrial crop of the tract is cotton, but indigo is also very important, though grown on a smaller area. In the greater portion of the central section of Kurnool, late cholum is the chief food crop, and cotton and indigo the chief industrial crops. On the remaining area in this section, arika (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*) and korra are the staple food-grains, the former being raised on the light soils only. In the western section of the district, on the light soils, early cholum and cumbu (*Pennisetum typhoideum*) are the staple food-grains, giving away towards the north and west, where the soils are heavier, to late cholum and korra. In the southern portion of this tract, castors is the chief industrial crop, but on the richer soils, cotton and indigo take its place. In Bellary, cholum is the most important food crop, and next to it, korra; in the eastern taluks, the late variety of the former crop being that chiefly grown. Ragi is important in Harpanahalli and Kudligi and cumbu in Bellary and Rayadrug. Large areas are sown with horsegram, except in the eastern taluks. The chief industrial crops are cotton and castors, but in Hospet sugarcane is grown on a fairly large area. In the taluks of Gooty, Tadpatri and Anantapur, cholum and korra are the chief food crops; the early variety of cholum being grown on the lighter soils and near the villages, and elsewhere the late sort. In Dharmavaram, Kalyandrug and Penukonda korra occupies the largest area. These three taluks and Anantapur are characterised by the large area occupied by horsegram; that crop being grown on about one-fourth of the total area cropped. Cumbu is also important in parts. The chief industrial crops of the tract are cotton and castors. Of the crops above mentioned, the earliest sown are cholum and cumbu on the lighter soils, which are put in with the first rains of the South-West monsoon; korra follows next, much of it being sown mixed with cotton, and lastly comes the late cholum and the horsegram. The late cholum is usually sown in September and October, the season varying in different parts of the affected area, but it is usually all put in before the beginning of November. The horsegram is often a mere catch-crop sown on the light soils with the last of the rainfall. Indigo is chiefly sown about July, and cotton in the succeeding months. Castors is an early crop.

"Statistics of the actual outturn of the early crops, or those harvested up to November only are at present available, and a statement (marked D) is appended to this report. It shows the areas under the chief (early) crops sown last year, the area brought to harvest up to November, the portion thereof on which the crops withered and the average outturn obtained on the remaining area. It will be seen that considerable areas of early cholum withered in the Pulivendla and Jammalamadugu taluks of Cuddapah, in the Pattikonda taluk of Kurnool, in Alur, Bellary and Hospet taluks of Bellary, and in the Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur taluks of Anantapur. Korra also failed to a large extent in Pulivendla, Pattikonda, the eastern taluks of Bellary, and the affected tracts of Anantapur. The average outturn on the remaining areas was generally 4 annas or under except in Cuddapah, where the outturn was better. In the central parts of Kurnool where arika is important, more than half the total area withered. In Kudligi, the ragi crop failed on nearly half the area, and on the remainder yielded an outturn of only about 3 annas. In Harpanahalli, where also that crop is important, the outturn of the crop was somewhat better, amounting to 6 annas. The industrial crops had not been harvested on any large areas by November, but from the final Forecast Reports it appears that the outturn of cotton was only 4 annas or under in Ramallakot, Pattikonda, Bellary, Rayadrug, Dharmavaram and Kalyandrug, and about 8 annas generally in the other taluks. From only three taluks—Koilkuntla, Naidyal and Jammalamadugu—was a fair outturn—12 annas—reported. Indigo is important only in Cuddapah and Kurnool, and its outturn is put at 4 annas in Pulivendla, Sirvel, Ramallakot and Pattikonda, and at 8 annas elsewhere. Exact information regarding the outturn of the late sown crops is not available, but, as already reported, their fate has become hopeless, and in very few places will the ryots secure more than a scanty crop of straw from the comparatively extensive sowings made after the November rainfall."

Enough has perhaps been stated above in proof of the position that in the Madras-Deccan we were face to face with a crop failure of the most serious kind. The miseries which it must inevitably have caused to the cultivating classes might not mean actual starvation to many of them, but it must necessarily do so in the case of those dependent on them, and on nearly all those who live by labour, as well as to handicraftsmen, especially weavers. The numbers on Government relief substantiated this view.

But the disaster has been aggravated by the invariably adverse character of the seasons in the Deccan during the last 20 years. One or other of the monsoons has nearly always been deficient. The material progress of the four districts composing it has been most seriously affected since the great famine, and the mass of the ryots has become impoverished to a degree unknown in the rest of the Presidency, and, it is believed, also in most of the other Provinces of the Empire. Some idea of the economic condition of these districts may be formed by an analysis of the statistics of grain traffic by rail which are given below. They cover twelve years:—

Surplus of exports or imports for the Deccan block.

Years.	Net exports. In maunds.	Net imports In maunds.
1885-86	...	264,433
1886-87	...	464,555
1887-88	16,255	...
1888-89	253,078	...
1889-90	79,071	...
1890-91	451,111	...
1891-92	...	471,346
1892-93	...	609,274
1893-94	735,354	...
1894-95	193,585	...
1895-96	172,566	...
1896-97	...	514,679
Total	1,901,020	2,324,287
Net	423,267	

It will be seen that in the two years which followed the drought of 1884, the districts had to import nearly 730,000 maunds or 27,000 tons of food-grains in excess of the exports. In the next few years there was a slight recovery, and the exports exceeded the imports, though not to any considerable extent, except in one year, 1890-91. The famine which followed in 1891-92 again led to a large increase of imports, amounting in the two years 1891-92 and 1892-93, to over a million maunds, or 40,000 tons. In 1893-94, the season was good and the districts were able to export their surplus produce to a large extent. In the next two years also there was an excess of exports over imports, though to a smaller extent than in 1893-94. The position was again reversed in the past year (1896-97), during which the imports exceeded the exports by 514,000 maunds. As the distress deepened, the imports were certain to increase enormously before the next year's produce was brought to the market. But taking the figures as far as they go, the net result for the twelve years is an excess of the imports over the exports of about 423,000 maunds. As the area under food-grains during this period has been steadily increasing, the natural inference to be drawn from the figures is that the Districts have suffered from a series of unfavourable seasons and have been unable to raise enough food-grain for local consumption.

The crop outturn reports for the past six years prepared in the Agricultural Department show that the yield of the staple products of the districts seldom exceed 8 to 10 annas, a bumper crop being taken at 20 annas, and an average crop at 16 annas. This is shown below:—

Statement showing outturn of Crops.

DISTRICTS.		OUTTURN OF CROPS IN ANNAS.													
		Paddy.	Cholum.	Cumbu.	Ragi.	Varagu.	Korra.	Horsegram.	Cotton.	Indigo.	Sugarcane.	Castor or Lamp-oil.	Ging ely.	G roundnut.	Tobacco.
Cuddapah	1892-93	11	7	11	11	...	...	...	10	12	13	11	11	15	9
	1893-94	12	10	9	10	...	...	...	10	12	12	10	8	11	11
	1894-95	11	11	10	11	...	11	8	11	10	14	9	9	10	10
	1895-96	10	9	9	10	...	10	9	11	9	11	9	9	10	11
	1896-97	7	General failure—outturn varying from 0 to 8 annas.												
Anantapur	1892-93	11	7	7	9	...	...	...	13	14	10	9	6	...	12
	1893-94	11	10	10	9	...	...	...	7	12	10	10	10	8	10
	1894-95	10	9	8	9	...	9	9	7	8	10	8	7	9	10
	1895-96	10	9	8	10	12	7	8	9	9	7	8	8	7	8
	1896-97	7	3	2	5	...	2	...	2	4	9	2	4	...	...
Bellary	1892-93	13	11	10	12	...	...	...	12	...	12	11	11	...	13
	1893-94	12	12	11	12	...	...	...	10	11	13	12	12	...	12
	1894-95	11	9	9	10	...	11	...	9	11	12	10	10	...	11
	1895-96	11	11	10	12	...	10	...	11	11	12	11	10	...	11
	1896-97	11	General failure—outturn varying from 0 to 8 annas.												
Kurnool	1892-93	11	9	10	11	...	...	...	10	11	...	7	7	2	8
	1893-94	11	9	8	9	...	...	...	9	12	15	9	9	4	9
	1894-95	9	10	8	8	9	9	8	8	11	11	9	10	11	10
	1895-96	10	10	9	9	10	9	9	11	10	13	9	9	...	10
	1896-97	4	3	3	4	2	3	...	9	3	11	2	4	...	...

The whole of the affected area is virtually unprotected by irrigation. Minor irrigation works and wells exist in a certain area in Cuddapah, and water 33,000 acres in Kurnool, but are of much less importance in Anantapur and Bellary, in the latter of which the 11,500 acres under the Tungabhadra channels are, however, fully protected. In Anantapur there is likewise a fringe of irrigation along the banks of the Pennar and Chatravati rivers, as well as the scattered oases, watered by the scanty trickle derived from the curious earth springs, which are a peculiar feature of that part of the country. The Kurnool canal is led off by the Sunkesala anicut from the Tungabhadra river above Kurnool, and is capable of irrigating 147,000 acres in that district, and 37,000 more in Cuddapah. But the country which it mainly traverses is composed of stiff cotton soil, which is unsuited for irrigation, and in which it is more profitable to grow 'dry' crops. The normal extent supplied has been therefore only 26,000 acres, and the maxima in years of drought have been :—

	Acres.
In 1876-77	77,105
In 1891-92	52,792
In 1896-97	73,416

The excess represented by these figures was almost entirely for occasional floodings for 'dry' crops. For the rest, the tract under notice is, for the most part, a dreary treeless plain of black cotton, mixed, or thin red, stony soil. This is broken here and there by ranges of low hills, or detached granitic out-crops, which in the hot weather often remind the traveller of the weird appearance of the shores of the Red Sea.

Just a word regarding the allegation that the high prices ruling in the Deccan are the results of export to other famine areas in India. The price of the staple food-grain in the Deccan has stood for a long while past at nearly 200 per cent. over normal rates. It has been shown above that it is not in the nature of things that the Ceded Districts could engage in any large export operations, for the balance of a series of years shows a large deficit of food-grains represented by imports. So long ago as the 24th February last, this Committee pointed out in its Fortnightly Report that exports had ceased with October, and that a widespread fear that they had entered a famine triennium was causing holders to hoard stocks. As a fact, the net imports for the six months ending 31st March was 635,153 maunds. No comment seems necessary on this.

So much for the Deccan districts. As for the north, omitting Godáviri, only a remote corner of which was recognised as affected, the districts to be dealt with are Ganjam and Vizagapatam. The affected area consisted roughly of a belt of country bordering the sea-coast, extending from the north of Ganjam to the south of Vizagapatam—in length about 240 miles, and in breadth varying from 35 miles in the north of Ganjam to about 10 miles in the south of Vizagapatam—but, from an area thus roughly sketched, must be deducted a tract about 60 miles in length, lying on each side of the district frontier line, which nearly equally divides it.

In Ganjam, the whole of the Government taluk of Berhampore and 10 proprietary estates are included. In Vizagapatam, the affected area consisted of a portion of the Vizianagram Zemindari, the taluks of Bimlipatam and Vizagapatam, part of the Ankapalle taluk, and the whole of the Government taluk of Sarvasiddhi.

The Ganjam portion has few tanks or wells, the greater part of the paddy being dependent on the rainfall. The new Rushikulya canal, which is capable of irrigating 80,000 acres within the affected area, has been completed only recently, and is, as yet, but little used. The affected area in Vizagapatam is irrigated by anicuts thrown across the Varahanadi, and by many tanks. The average rainfall in the long belt in question may be set down as 40·45 inches. The actual rainfall in 1896-97 was :—

Ganjam	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30·8 inches.
Vizagapatam	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20·7 „

The crop failure from which both districts were suffering arose from precisely the same cause as that in the Deccan. The South-West monsoon suddenly ceased in August, and there was practically no North-East monsoon, on which everything depends in these two districts.

The famine history of Vizagapatam shows a comparative immunity from such disasters. There was a famine in 1790 and another drought in 1824, since when it has escaped nearly scathless from the misfortunes which have devastated the country hard by.

Ganjam, on the other hand, has a more troubled record. In 1792, 1836 and 1839 there was distress, which was greatly aggravated by the disturbed state of the country. The northern half of the district shared in the Orissa famine of 1865-66, which was aggravated by the occurrence of two preceding years of scarcity. Nearly 4·5 lakhs were expended on relief. In 1871, 1872 and 1878 there were partial failures of crops accompanied, in the last year, by abnormally high prices caused by exports to the famine tracts of Southern India. Severe famine again occurred in 1888-89, which cost the Government 12·65 lakhs.

Prices stood in this portion of the Presidency at about thrice the normal rate with a tendency to rise. They exceeded the highest prices of recent years, and approximated those of the great famine.

The chief crops are paddy 58 per cent., ragi 11 and pulses 12. Out of a total breadth of 223,000 acres sown in the Government portion of the two districts 27,000 withered, while 196,000 yielded a very inferior harvest.

As in the Ceded Districts, so in the north, the bulk of the pattadars pay less than R10 per annum, while the number of those who pay less than R30 absorbs more than three-fourths of the whole. Peasant proprietors of some substance are rather more numerous in Vizagapatam, but this fact is counter-balanced by an increased number of sub-tenants and day labourers, who naturally feel the pinch of bad times acutely and at once. The large peasant proprietor of old days is, from the operation of a variety of causes, dying out all over Southern India.

Much of the affected area in Ganjam and Vizagapatam is composed of Zemindaries, in which the Government has hitherto possessed no means of securing accurate statistical information. This defect will be cured when the rules drafted under Act II of 1894 (Madras) have been brought into force. At present it is futile to pretend that the figures, even when available, are in any sense reliable. They are of hardly any practical use. All that can be safely

asserted is that the Zemindari tracts have suffered equally with the Government taluks, and that as the cultivators there are largely tenants-at-will, their condition is necessarily inferior to that of Government ryots.

This defect in statistical information is especially noticeable when an enquiry into that phase of rural economics, the flocks and herds, is entered upon. Most providentially, several heavy showers of rain brought up sufficient herbage in the northern districts, so the solution of the fodder problem was practically confined to the Deccan Districts.

In addition to the area of 15,955 square miles described above, to which the operations of Government were almost entirely confined, two tracts aggregating roughly 8,000 square miles ought to be added as partially affected. These consisted of the upland portions of the Godávári taluks of Ellore, Yernagudem, Rajahmundry, and Peddapuram, and the taluks of Rayachoti, Kadiri, Madanapalle, and Vayalpad in Cuddapah. The Godávári taluks escaped disaster almost by a miracle, owing to a copious South-West monsoon, but the Committee was compelled to extend its operations into the Cuddapah district taluks in August.

Lastly, the three divisions in charge of the Agent to the Governor in the Godávári District, Polavaram, Chodavaram, Yellavaram and Bhadrachalam (taluk), aggregating an affected area of 1,600 square miles, and involving a population of 127,000, were more or less distressed. The condition of the hill tribes in Bhadrachalam in April seemed to this Committee to be so critical as to require its intervention, which continued up to the close of the famine.

In August the high prices then prevailing owing to the drain on the food supply, caused by the demands of the famine-stricken tracts in Bombay and the north of India, produced great suffering among the poor of the district of Malabar. This Committee felt it necessary to make grants-in-aid of the benevolent work of relief which was organised by the local Committee there.

The country in which the Committee conducted operations, excluding Malabar, thus aggregated 25,555 square miles, with a population of 4,245,900 souls.

II.

PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS.

To turn next to the steps which were taken for the collection of funds for charitable relief, and for the administration of such funds. A public meeting was held in the Banqueting Hall on the 4th February, at which His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock presided. Subscriptions, amounting to Rs58,000, were announced on the spot and an influential Provincial Committee was appointed. It was announced at this meeting that there was available a sum of Rs11,445, the balance, with interest, of the last Mansion House Fund of 1877, and this sum was handed over to us by Archbishop Colgan, the only Trustee now in Madras. On the 8th February, a meeting of the Provincial Committee took place, of which His Excellency was Chairman. A very strong Executive Committee of 30 members, who have since become 37, was then appointed with the following office-bearers:—

The Honourable Mr. C. S. Crole, I.C.S., Chairman; the Honourable Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot, Treasurer; Mr. H. K. Beauchamp, and the Honourable P. Rajaratna Mudaliyar, Dewan Bahadur, Honorary Secretaries.

This Executive Committee held its first meeting on the 13th February, at which it settled preliminary details. It likewise sent forth two important circular letters to the Collectors of districts. One of these referred to the non-affected tracts, and dealt with the organising of measures for raising money for the purposes of charitable relief. The other was addressed to the Collectors of distressed, or partially affected, districts, and, in addition to the question of collecting funds, this circular developed a scheme for the administration of the funds, and laid down the sphere of charitable relief on the lines of the speech delivered by His Excellency Lord Elgin in Calcutta.

On the 17th February, the Committee met again and besides settling further details, decided to approach the public by means of post-cards, advertisements and printed subscription lists signed severally by the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries. On that date the funds were reported to amount to about R80,000.

On the 24th February, forms of abstract accounts to be maintained by District Committees were passed. A telegram was likewise sent to Collectors of distressed districts, urging them to send in estimates of their requirements for seven months without delay.

In response to the invitation issued to them, Collectors and District Judges all over the Presidency, as also the Dewans of Travancore and Pudukottah, proceeded to organise District Committees at their head-quarters for the collection of subscriptions, and, in affected districts, for the administration of such funds as might be allotted by the Executive Committee for the relief of distress. Local Sub-Committees likewise came quickly into existence for the purpose of working the country parts. Non-official gentlemen of all nationalities who formed the large majority of all these bodies vied with officials in promoting the good cause. Enthusiastic meetings took place all over the Presidency. Many of them—and those not the least interesting—were held in quite out-of-the-way townlets. All were actuated by the same public spirit. The basis of the system of collection was the signed sheet alluded to above, on which every individual contribution was entered. The Government assisted by throwing open the columns of the District Gazettes for the reproduction of the entries in these lists, so that every one was enabled to trace his subscription. The result has been most satisfactory. Not a single case of fraud or misappropriation has been even alleged.

On the 18th March, the Committee in a letter addressed to the Central Committee at Calcutta estimated the contributions to the Fund within the Presidency at R2,67,100. As a matter of fact, R2,46,527-4-11 have been paid in, the difference between subscriptions and payments being only some R2,000. This fact speaks volumes in India. Besides all that, the people of Madras contributed R94,988-14-9 to the resources of the Central Committee at Calcutta. Although all districts have not displayed an equal liberality, the total sum raised, R3,41,516-3-8, was creditable. The contributions of each district are given in an appendix. Owing to a miscalculation of the gravity of the famine, then steadily overwhelming a portion of Madras, which this Committee from the very commencement combated with all its might, but for which the Central Committee was in nowise responsible, the funds allotted to Madras were, at first, entirely inadequate. As a result, however, of a most useful visit paid to us in June by the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, the true position began to be more correctly realized. The allotments received in Madras have been as follows:—

	R
13th February	{ 10,000
16th March	{ 5,000
3rd April	1,00,000
11th May	1,03,750
23rd June	1,45,833
6th July	2,00,000
26th July	4,00,000
20th August	2,00,000
	1,00,000
Total	12,64,583

To this allotment of R12,64,583 from Calcutta, the local collections and certain miscellaneous receipts have to be added, *viz.*:—

	R	a.	p.
Local subscriptions (up to 15th December)	2,46,527	4	11
Balance of last Famine Fund	11,475	10	3
subscriptions collected in Calcutta, and ear-marked for Madras	294	8	0
Miscellaneous collections	157	14	5
Total	2,58,455	5	7

The sum available for Charitable Relief in Madras was thus R15,23,038-5-7.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDS.

In his speech at the inaugural meeting of the Famine Fund at Calcutta the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, laid down under four heads the objects to which the Charitable Fund might be legitimately devoted without interfering with, or overlapping, the operations undertaken by the State. The first of these provides for supplementing Government gratuitous relief to the aged, the infirm and to children. The third contemplates the relief of the numerous poor but respectable persons, who will undergo almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by formal inquiries and tests of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved. When this Committee commenced work the conditions in Madras were peculiar, and seemed to call for immediate action in respect to the abovesaid two objects.

To explain: The Government of Madras had not been taken unawares by the famine. From the commencement of October 1896, reports were collected showing the condition of every district, the future of which there was any reason to suspect; sanction was accorded for strengthening the establishments of those districts in which the effects of scarcity began to show themselves; test works, followed by regular famine works, were opened; kitchens were provided on works for the feeding of dependents of the workers and others; village gratuitous relief was sanctioned for certain parts of Kurnool and Bellary; the appointment of Circle Inspectors was ordered in them; and lastly, the submission of Fortnightly Famine Narratives by Collectors was commenced. Parts of Cuddapah, Anantapur, Kurnool, Bellary, Vizagapatam and Ganjām were declared famine-affected on the 23rd February, or some 10 days after the formation of this Committee. But no provision was sanctioned for the general establishment of gratuitous relief, or of the machinery requisite for its introduction and administration. The necessary steps were not considered by Government to be required until the 30th March, when an order of great liberality was promulgated. But it took more than a month—in some tracts as much as three—to place the country under Famine Inspectors and to introduce gratuitous relief. To this Committee accordingly fell the duty of giving the required relief until that was accomplished.

Under the instructions which were issued in February, therefore, meetings were called in the various districts to appoint District and Sub-Committees for the purpose of the organised registration of persons deserving of relief from the Charitable Fund, through the enlistment for that duty of large landholders, merchants, District munsiffs, Tahsildars, Sub-Registrars, members of Taluk and Local Fund Boards and of Municipalities, and Missionaries.

Mr. H. A. Stuart, the Collector of Bellary, was most properly precise in his definition of the sphere of charity during the present distress. A sum of ₹ 9,000 was remitted by the Executive Committee to the District Committee at Bellary, and ₹ 15,000 to that at Cuddapah, for expenditure during March. In each of those districts, the necessary organisation for distribution seemed to be sufficiently complete to justify these grants. Unceasing efforts were made in view to bringing the remaining districts into line with Bellary and Cuddapah. But it was palpable that it would be worse than useless to make grants in the absence of evidence of the existence of efficient machinery for registration and distribution. Fortunately, private charity in the villages had not yet dried up, and this Committee availed itself of the breathing time thus afforded to it, in order, not only to insist on the introduction of a complete organisation as a condition precedent to any grant of funds, but to devise the main outlines of a uniform system of agency and accounts, which would be applicable to all districts, while it left scope for adapting details to suit local peculiarities.

The scheme alluded to was presented to the Committee on the 3rd March, and, after the papers relating to it had been circulated in proof to each member, was finally amended and passed at a meeting on the 10th March. It proceeded on the recognition under the caste system, at the door of every at all well-to-do house in the country, of almsgiving to the aged and the needy, as a religious duty during ordinary times. When times of trouble come, this deeply-rooted institu

tion of private charity aids and supplements State operations of relief for a certain period. As distress becomes acute, private charity naturally contracts and is absorbed into an organised system of charitable relief on a wider basis, in which all the better classes of the community participate.

This Committee accordingly resolved that all doles for daily subsistence in villages should be distributed by native hands, that is to say, by a Panchayat or Committee consisting of the headman and two principal ryots.

To entitle a person to receive a dole, he or she had to present a ticket corresponding with an entry in a register supplied to the Panchayat. Doles were to be paid at a specified time and place.

The registration was made by the member of the Taluk Sub-Committee in charge of each small circle of villages and was required to be made as the result of one of the frequent personal inspections which such members were required to make.

Funds were to be supplied to the Panchayats, weekly or fortnightly, as the case might be, on indents made by the Sub-Committee, who would submit abstract accounts at the same time to the District Executive Committee. The latter was thus placed in possession of a continuous and contemporaneous control, which enabled it, in turn, to discharge, from time to time, its obligations to the Executive Committee at Madras.

The Committee hoped in this way to link up the recipient of charity, in even the remotest village in the affected area, with the central authority. Improvements were indicated as the result of actual working out the scheme, but it was found that the singularly perfect village, Taluk and Local Fund and Municipal organisation existing in the Madras Presidency, could be applied to the work of efficient and economical charitable relief with well founded confidence of marked success.

This description ought not, perhaps, to close without some account of the reasons which led the Committee to decide in favour of money, as distinguished from grain doles, to the poor in villages. The main ground usually urged in favour of relief by means of grain, instead of money, is that, owing to the inherent corruption of the ordinary distributing agency, the pauper is likely to get some, at least, of the grain designed for him, whereas the money is nearly certain to be peculated. This contention might have been true 20 years ago, in view of the loose measures of distribution in vogue in the great famine, and of the lack of public spirit due to the incomplete provision for public education and to the fact that none but the official class was habituated to the practice of organisation. Public opinion also, as a moral force, was then in its infancy. This Committee would have felt intensely surprised if the organisation above described had been hampered, to any serious extent, by defects which might have been of serious import a quarter of a century ago. Moreover, the conversion of the funds of the Committee into grain, with all the unavoidable expenses, dangers and risks attending on transport, warehousing, distribution, guarding, and accounting, and the re-conversion back again into money of the grain doled out, and in hand, from time to time, along with the inevitable writing off of the value of missing or damaged quantities, would entail much labour, and the employment of costly establishments. The Committee was unable to discover any reason, or to foresee the likelihood of the occurrence of any contingency, such as would justify it in departing from the simplicity which characterises the system which, after full discussion, it decided to adopt. It preferred to rely on the public spirit of the leading inhabitants of the various districts who were freely offering their services, as an infinitely stronger protection of the Charitable Relief Funds from malversation than could possibly result from the clumsy and, it believes, ineffectual expedient of a grain dole.

One specious objection to payments made in money has lately been started in the assertion, which has found support in a Home Newspaper, that the money dole system is designed to enable the rapacious bazaar men to fatten on the needs of the pauper recipient by raising prices. This objection proceeds from forgetfulness of the fact that the money dole contemplated follows a sliding scale, just as the rates on Government relief-works do. The Charitable Funds may suffer by a combination in the bazaar, but the pauper is safe. Moreover, it is always open to influential ryots, or other capitalist inhabitants, to keep

prices within bounds by opening sales on their own account, and the Committee had no apprehensions regarding successful combination to enhance prices unduly.

By the beginning of April grants, varying from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 2,000, were made for like purposes to the districts of Kurnool, Ganjám, Anantapur, Vizagapatam and Górávári, and sanction was likewise given for supplementing the Government wages or rations in works and kitchens. In the former, the aid was mainly confined to small grants to women newly confined or to nursing mothers, and to the supply of clothing to those destitute of decent raiment. In kitchens, it generally took the shape of Mellin's food for sick or very emaciated children, and the supply of vegetables as an addition to the diet of the inmates. Small daily allowances were likewise paid to supplement the Government doles given to people of respectability, whose habits of life required such aid. Lastly, small advances were placed in the hands of officers in charge of relief-works and others, to help workers disabled by accident or sickness, destitute persons before admission to Government relief-works or dole lists, women with sick children, and similar urgent cases.

A nursing mother might be unable to work on account of the sickness of her infant ; or a worker have met with a slight accident which prevented him from doing his task ; or an old man have wandered away in search of a relative from whom he hoped to get food, but whom he failed to find, or found, only to discover that his relative was nearly as famine-stricken as himself. In such cases, these imprests were great blessings, and the Charitable Fund could have been put to no better use. The Chairman was a witness to the relief of a wanderer in what one would almost think to be the last stage of emaciation, who had struggled aimlessly to the door of a kitchen, which, however, he refused to enter, on account of caste prejudice, and because he had seen better days. He was ordered a grant of money for a day or two, until his strength picked up a little, after which he was to be railed back to his village, and there provided for. There were numbers of such cases occurring every day ; and they became more and more frequent as the famine deepened.

It is pleasing to record the fact that in a good many instances benevolent persons were found to be giving the children weekly or bi-weekly treats of vegetables, milk and such like welcome comforts.

The Honourable the Rajah of Bobbili, K.C.I.E. ; Rajah G. N. Gajapati Row, C.I.E., of Vizagapatam ; the Zemindar of Parlákimedi in Ganjám ; Basivi Reddi of Górávári district ; and Kari Gangappa of Hospet were conspicuous for their generosity in the relief of distress, either in giving employment, or in feeding the poor, or in both kinds of good works. But there were also others, too numerous to mention, in all grades of life, who fed and clothed the hungry, very often in that quiet, unostentatious way which is the essence of true charity.

This Committee has likewise to acknowledge the gift of five bales of clothing for Muhamádan women through the Central Committee at Calcutta. The clothing was part of the work of 100 working parties, of which Mrs. Jeannette S. Hauser of 48, Bedford Gardens, Kensington W., was the Honorary Secretary. If the ladies who made the articles only knew the misery of this community during these famine times, they would feel that their labours to alleviate it were amply repaid, without the blessings of the poor women, which will undoubtedly go out to the donors from many a wretched Muhammadan household.

Besides feeding and clothing the more destitute among the Chentsus, a jungle tribe inhabiting the hill tracts of the Kurnool district as well as various hillmen in Vizagapatam and Ganjám, the Committee spent altogether Rs. 18,000 in the hill tracts of Górávári. As to the latter, the operations commenced in April with a grant for the relief of the Koís, a tribe living in the Bhadráchalam taluk, a remote tract in the higher reaches of the Górávári river. The villages are, however, situated for the most part, far away from its banks. This tribe, always poor, inhabits many scattered villages of shallow and infertile land. The crops during the past year were an almost total failure. Some of the people had been supported on imported grain, which had been purchased out of



"Next day the steamer started on a fast rising flood, dashed past the whirlpools at each end of the Gorge, so justly dreaded by native craft, and leaving the driftwood behind, as if it were standing still, arrived at Rajahmundry, 67 miles off, in little more than five hours. Mr. Brodie, the Collector, whose management, in a very difficult position, has been throughout, alike business-like and sympathetic, then set to work to send up a fresh supply of 1,200 bags of grain, and eventually, through the courtesy of the East Coast Railway authorities, secured the services of one of its powerful paddle wheel ferry steamers. Mr. Phillips, I.C.S., who was in charge of the Agency, was instructed to take that opportunity of getting up the river, and thoroughly checking the lists of persons on gratuitous relief, among whom there was reason to believe there was an undue number of Malas and Madigas (Pariahs and Chucklers), who could get on without such relief. The ready assistance rendered by Mr. Boyce, the Traffic Superintendent of the Railway, must not be passed over without due acknowledgment."

In July, a new area of distress had been developing in the Malabar district on the West coast of India. The rains here are always certain, and they have been, this year, even more copious than usual. The district, however, never produces food sufficient for its teeming population. It has to import the rest from other parts of the south of India. This year the demands of our own famine tracts, and of the vast territories in the north which were similarly afflicted, raised prices in Malabar to scarcity rates. Material wealth is, owing to a tenure with which Government can scarcely delay much longer to grapple, most unevenly distributed. While the few are rich, the masses are steeped in grinding poverty. This year they were starving. The well-to-do here and there first commenced, without any particular organization, to distribute rice or cooked food to the poor. Then, wealthy merchants and others combined and carried on the charity by subscription, the organization of the Mopla community, which comprises the poorest class, being described as most complete. Last of all the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund recognizing the dimensions which the distress had begun to assume, started a general subscription and a scheme for administering the monies so raised. It applied to the Executive Committee at Madras for a return of the subscriptions remitted from the district towards the Indian Famine Fund. The total of these had been very small—only Rs. 12,000 or so. The Executive Committee therefore, in view of the excessively small benefit which could accrue from the expenditure of such a trifling amount, and of the danger of the collapse of the local subscriptions if it made a lump grant, which would be sure to lead to further demands, decided to offer the equivalent of the local subscriptions, up to the amount of the original Malabar subscription to its funds. It likewise suggested to Government that it should make a similar grant. In the meantime, the Government replied referring this Committee to the provisions of the Famine Code.

The operations in Malabar continued until September. The District Report will be found in the appendix.

The quiet and uncomplaining manner in which the people all over the affected tracts bore up against the calamity which had overwhelmed them, was specially remarkable. In Vizagapatam, for instance, where famines are scarcely ever known, they carried this to the extent of reducing themselves in some parts to a state of emaciation, which was most distressing to witness, rather than resort to relief. They were compelled to give way, however, in June, and the works and kitchens in some parts of the districts were filled with what can only be described as walking skeletons. This was not due to any want of proper provision for relief on the part of the Collector.

From Jammalamadugu the Committee however heard of wives deserted by their husbands, children by their parents, and old people by their children. Poor wandering waifs and strays were reported in nearly every village. Even the Car festival was very poorly attended. The usually inexorable demands of religion had in that taluk then given way before the struggle for food. From Pennakonda, likewise, came the sad tale of the poor trying to live on the fruits of the prickly-pear. Amidst all the misery thus indicated, however, there cropped up encouraging evidence of the sturdy independence of the people. Blind men insisted on being received on the works, and struggled to do their task at stone breaking. Doses of food and money were refused, and people, driven by hunger to accept tickets for gratuitous relief, were known to have travelled long distances in order to deliver them up again.

The only instance in which natural affection conspicuously gave way, as far as is known—and the fact speaks volumes for the character of the people—was in a village in the Ganjām district, where the Chairman came upon one of the sorriest sights of all his famine experiences. This was a group of children belonging to the Reddiga caste, the members of which are exceptionally lazy and priestridden, and feel it no degradation to live on charity, if only they are permitted to dictate the form which it is to take. The children were all thin, but twenty-five of them appeared to be in the last stages of emaciation. They were the children of people in the neighbourhood, who could work if they chose, and who had therefore been struck off gratuitous relief. The children, however, continued to be in receipt of grain doles, but their parents appropriated them to their own use. They intentionally kept the children in this miserable plight, in order that relief might be continued to them, and they instructed the poor things to refuse cooked food in any form, or under any possible arrangement. The Collector had exhausted his ingenuity in trying to circumvent the children's objections to every plan for feeding them which was proposed, but in vain. There they stood obdurate, the saddest sight in all Madras. The incident is cited just because it is in such remarkable contrast to the behaviour of the distressed people everywhere else.

The total number of persons who were relieved by this Committee under heads I and III all over the famine area is calculated as 258,477. The cost was R1,50,872. The manner in which non-official gentlemen, especially in the towns, generally threw themselves into the work was beyond praise.

The famine affected the most backward tracts, and although there were notable exceptions here and there, it was hardly to be expected that efficient Committee men could be obtained from among the ryots in such tracts. The work in places at all distant from towns had therefore to be done mainly by officials whose ingenuity and watchfulness were often severely taxed in order to prevent or rather to minimize the rapacity of the village officers who form the *élite* in the country parts.

It would be almost impertinent as it would be entirely superfluous to say anything about the invaluable services rendered by the seven Collectors who were engaged in famine administration. They were ably supported by their subordinates of all grades in assisting the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in all its departments.

IV.

CATTLE AND FODDER SUPPLY.

The elaborate arrangements for the onerous duty, temporarily thrown on this Committee under heads I and III had just been completed, when its attention was directed to the condition of the ploughing cattle of the Deccan. Like the population of the tract, the cattle enjoyed an extraordinary immunity from any disease all through the hot weather, but pasture had long ago disappeared, and stocks of fodder were very low. The price of cholum straw, which is the usual food, had gone up 400 per cent. over normal rates in many parts. Feelings of humanity apart, it seemed to be in the interests of the Fund, and of the cultivators alike, to make an effort to keep the ploughing cattle alive, instead of providing for large purchases of fresh stock after the famine was over, at, of course, very high prices. The cattle required for the heavy clays of this rich 'black cotton' soil are very dear to buy at any time. The usual price is R60 to R150 and over for a pair. This Committee was told that an attempt had been made in this direction before, and that it had ignominiously failed. But it determined to make another attempt. In the result, a gratifying measure of success was achieved.

The history of the measures adopted for saving cattle is detailed below, very much in the same form in which it was originally given to the Central

Committee in the Fortnightly Reports from this branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

In the beginning of April, the Committee opened correspondence with Collectors for the purpose of devising measures. The condition of the cattle, which had been slowly enfeebled by a long continuance of half the ordinary quantity of food, or less, was matter for grave anxiety. This Committee stepped in to assist the ryot in this matter not a day too soon.

Already, somewhat heavy loss had taken place, owing to forced sales of animals which the owners were unable to feed, as well as by actual starvation. But fortunately disease had so far not taken hold of them. In the northern districts rain had fallen, and the normal amount of pasture was again available. On the other hand, in the Ceded Districts there was no pasturage at all on the plains or the lower hills. The price of fodder, even where it was to be bought at all, was 400 per cent. over normal rates. The Chairman was informed on all hands that in a very short time widespread mortality would be unavoidable, unless copious rains fell. Various projects for the preservation of cattle had been under the consideration of this Committee for some time before. Dr. King, the Sanitary Commissioner, suggested the importation of pressed straw from Burma, or from the more favoured districts of the Madras Presidency, and its sale, at selected railway stations, to the ryots at from Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 lb. The plan of laying down fodder was tried by Government in 1891-92, and it failed; so its success was considered, by most of those consulted, as more than doubtful. The two Collectors of Kurnool and Anantapur, however, obtained permission to make experiments on a limited scale. The former has one railway, and the latter district two. Both are connected with the rice tracts of the Kistna delta. Purchases on the spot would, of course, have only aggravated the evil. The Collector of Bellary was however authorised, in emergency, to purchase straw in those villages in which it might be available, in order to save the ploughing bullocks of the poorer ryots, whose powers of borrowing at moderate rates had been exhausted.

Then, the Famine Commissioner proposed the formation of cattle camps, in which, presumably, all cattle brought to them would be fed gratuitously on imported fodder. He supplied no details. This would have been an operation of a magnitude far transcending the means of this Committee, both as to money and agency, for the number liable to be thrown on our hands could hardly be set down as far short of 2 million head. The Committee, however, intimated to the Famine Commissioner that it was prepared to at once advance him the necessary funds, if he found himself in a position to devise a practicable scheme.

The solution which promised the best hopes of success was that put forward by this Committee several weeks before, and which, owing to the ready co-operation of the Forest Commissioner, the Honorable Mr. Sturrock, was ordered to be immediately put to the test. It consisted in throwing open to free grazing all the forests in the Ceded Districts. The range of hills, called the Nallamalas, in the Kurnool district is one of these. The estimated extent of the forests referred to is 3,810,700 acres. Much of this area is, owing to its altitude, exempt from the burnt up condition of the plains or the very low hills. The proposal was that the Revenue authorities should at once set to work and induce the ryots to club their cattle into herds under appointed drovers, who should take the cattle into the reserves under the supervision of Revenue Inspectors, and keep them there till better times came. This plan was in accord with old native custom, and is believed to be by far the best. Under a sky of brass, a wind like scorching fire was sweeping over the Deccan, and the fate of its cattle—all but the large stall-fed bullocks of the richer ryots—depended on the promptitude with which the herds were rescued.

The Committee likewise instituted a system of assisting such poor ryots and cattle owners as were, on enquiry, found to be unable to raise money on the security of their lands, for the purpose of purchasing fodder for their cattle. The *maximum* was fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 per week. This concession, besides being confined to persons owning not more than two pairs of bullocks, was subject to constant inspection and supervision of cases relieved.

Permission was likewise given to the Collector of Bellary to devote a portion of the money at the disposal of his Committee to grants for the purchase of fodder above alluded to. The Collector of Kurnool also received an allotment of Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of fodder for sale to needy ryots at favourable rates.

The Ceded Districts had in May entered on the critical period alluded to repeatedly during the previous four months, namely, when pasturage had totally disappeared and fodder had in many places been exhausted. Measures for averting widespread loss of cattle from starvation were inevitable. These were all matured by this Committee, and quickly put into operation. The first requisite for the successful treatment of this phase of distress is that loans for the purchase of fodder should be freely given by Government under the Agricultural Loans Act XII of 1884 (India). This was complied with to a certain extent, and it was hoped that nothing would be allowed to give any check to a free distribution of such loans.

The cattle of the Ceded Districts number about 3,000,000. About 900,000 of these are, many of them, large and expensive animals, imported mainly from Mysore and Nellore. These are invariably stall-fed. It was mainly for their support that fodder loans would be taken.

The second requisite was the opening of every forest reserve for free grazing. These reserves cover an area which may roughly be calculated as capable of carrying a million head of cattle. The Nallamalas alone will carry close on half a million. All the ordinary herds could be driven to these reserves in the manner already described. The reserves were at last all opened towards the end of May. The indigenous herds are more than 2 million head. They are mostly bred on the mixed soils and the poor red soils. The better of them are used for ploughing, but they are largely kept on account of their droppings, and of the profit derived from the sale of the bull calves which are taken away by dealers from the south, who periodically visit the Ceded Districts.

As a supplement to the above two palliatives, this Committee took advantage of the railway facilities, which fortunately exist, to throw in supplies of paddy straw, and to store it at selected railway stations. The sources of supply at first were the Chingleput district in the south, and Guntur in the Kistna district. The Famine Commissioner undertook the sale of fodder at these depôts, at favourable rates, to ryots who were certified by village headmen to have run out of fodder and to be worthy of the concession. The transactions, which were entered by the depôt-keepers in a special register, were regularly checked by the Tahsildars of taluks on their rounds. The price was at first fixed at Rs. 12-8-0 a ton, which is somewhat above the ordinary rate, but the rush which followed the opening of the first depôt at Tadpatri necessitated an increase to the price. Experience showed the Committee the comparative smallness of the stock of straw which was available at the sources of supply, when compared with the magnitude of the demand which the opening of such sales might create, unless due restrictions were imposed both as to purchasers and prices. The total quantity available in the tracts which were tapped was estimated at 2,500 tons, and it was at first doubtful whether, in view of the cost of trainage, it would be practicable to go further afield. The difference between the total cost and the price charged was the cost to the Famine Fund of the operations.

It may, perhaps, be of use to others, if, in addition to relating what it has been found possible to do, a record be left in this place of what, as found in practical working, ought not to be attempted. The idea of establishing cattle camps for the gratuitous feeding of the bullocks of necessitous owners was abandoned as utterly impracticable. It was found that, on a moderate computation, supposing for the sake of argument that the fodder could be imported at all, an expenditure of a lakh or two a day might have to be faced. The real cattle camp is the forest reserve. There is no possible substitute. Such was the conclusion arrived at.

In the next place, the idea of saving transit charges by pressing straw into bales had to be abandoned. It was found that none of the presses in Madras City could do this satisfactorily, while in Guntur, although bales of 250 lb. were turned out, the cost was utterly prohibitive. The plan has no doubt many

attractions. It saves cost of haulage, it facilitates accounting, and it prevents theft. But it is, unfortunately, just as much out of the question on the score of cost as the idea of importing fodder from Burma, which was likewise abandoned.

The manufacture of straw into uniform tight twists of 100 lb. each, formed by rope making machines, likewise failed, for it was found that they pack as badly into a railway waggon as a loosely pressed bale, besides being expensive to turn out.

Experience proved that the most economical manner of sending straw by rail is to put it on the waggons in the small loose twists in which it is usually sold in the villages, to tread it in thoroughly, and then to tie it down. The Madras Railway Company's rule as to the height of the load brought the weight carried by a 12-ton waggon to an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons, which at the special rate allowed to the Famine Fund worked out to 1 anna per ton per mile. The Guntūr straw was carried by the Southern Mahratta Railway at a rate of 1 anna per waggon per mile. This worked out to about $2\frac{2}{3}$ pies per ton per mile, but, even if the railway had been able to continue such an abnormally low rate, the pressing charges, the distance, and the break of gauge would have far more than counterbalanced the advantage. The railway referred to is a narrow gauge line, and the waggons are therefore only of 8 tons nominal capacity. It was calculated, however, that, with fodder packed in the manner above described, the rate would approximate 6 pies per ton per mile. The cordial manner in which both the railways referred to have assisted this Committee has been very marked.

At the commencement of the operations the supply was entrusted to a Madras contractor, who drew his straw from the neighbouring Chingleput district, in which the previous season had been favourable. Mr. M. Venkatasami Nayudu, Dubash of Messrs. Binny & Co., deserves mention for undertaking the first contract, in spite of general prognostications of failure and loss. When his contract, which was for 500 tons, had expired, the supply was given to other contractors who drew their supplies from the North Arcot district in addition, and thereby diminished the cost of haulage. Both the Madras Railway and the South Indian and Mahratta Railways systems were then used, and a certain quantity was purchased in the Nellore district, and despatched from Gudur over the South Indian Railway to the southern taluks of Cuddapah. Lastly, straw was purchased in the Kistna delta and despatched from Guntūr, likewise by the Revenue authorities, to the extent of 274 tons. This was very nicely pressed in bales of 250 lb each, but as the nearest and the extreme distances to which it had to be carried by rail (Dhone and Nandyal excluded) were 259 and 357 miles, respectively, the quantity indented for from this source was kept as low as possible. The least and the greatest distances on the Madras Railway were 196 and 325 miles. The average cost per ton delivered at the 19 depôts, which were all situated at railway stations, was a trifle over R16 per ton. The price fixed at first for sales to ryots at these depôts was R12-8-0 per ton. It was subsequently increased to R15, and finally to R17-8-0, the minimum and maximum quantities sold to any individual at one time being 100 and 500 lb, respectively. The total fodder carried was 3,000 tons; the gross cost including some R10,000 and odd remaining to be adjusted amounted to about R1,12,000; and the recoveries from ryots amounted to R32,546-5-0. The net cost to the Fund was therefore R79,454 or if the value of fodder given away gratis (R3,853) is excluded, to R75,600. The names of the depôts, and the quantities sold at each will be found in an appendix.

The Committee considers that the expenditure was amply justified by the satisfactory results attained. It is impossible, of course, to give more than a mere guess at the number of cattle saved from death or irremediable deterioration. But it may be judged from the figures supplied from one of the four districts, Bellary, in which systematic efforts were made to maintain this information. In that one district alone the number of cattle thus rescued is put down as 13,000, which, at the extremely low price of R40 per head, represents a sum of R5,20,000 saved through the Famine Fund's fodder supply, to the ryots of that one district. This calculation takes no note of the indirect benefit to the rest of the cattle by enabling the ryots to utilize the available stocks in the district for their proper maintenance.

The success of such an operation is largely affected by promptitude and liberality in the grant of State loans for the purchase of fodder. The Committee regrets to say that the administration of this important branch of famine work was defective. It was quite obvious that the Government officers, in Kurnool and Cuddapah especially, did not understand the extent of their legal powers in this all-important matter. This, without doubt, prevented the operations of the Fund from reaching the dimensions which they would otherwise have assumed. In August, no doubt, the Government was induced, at the instance of the Collector of Bellary, Mr. H. A. Stuart, I.C.S., to confer a great boon on the ryots by permitting Collectors to make "*takkavi*" advances, for the subsistence of man and beast, on personal security merely, free of the cumbrous and dilatory procedure requisite for ordinary State loans for such purposes. This was a great step in advance, which might well have been taken long before; but it came too late, for the season had, by that time, taken a more favourable turn. Pasture had sprung up, fresh fodder had become available owing to old stocks, hitherto bottled up, coming into the market, and the early harvest was becoming general. The fodder operations of the Committee were, therefore, brought to a close early in September.

The number of cattle saved by being allowed to graze without payment of fees in the Government forest reserves is returned as 683,500, of which 403,500 had paid fees up to June 30th.

On the whole, the total number of cattle which came under the care of the Fund may be safely put down as at least 700,000, and their value, at the lowest computation, as Rs. 11,00,000. This latter figure, then, may be taken as the measure of the probable loss which was prevented by the various measures taken by the Famine Fund Committee.

V.

OTHER OPERATIONS UNDER HEAD IV.

The major portion of the funds under the control of this Committee was, from the early days of its existence, set apart for the purpose of setting up in life again those who fell into destitution during the famine, or had lost their all in the struggle. The Committee all along carefully nursed its funds so as to be able to attain this object. As far back as the 12th of March, the Collectors of famine districts were addressed in view to the registration of deserving recipients. These instructions were supplemented, from time to time, with the special object of securing the cultivation of holdings immediately on the appearance of the monsoon, and of saving ryots and others from the necessity of getting further under the grip of the sowcar. Lists were likewise ordered to be maintained of ryots, weavers and other artizans who might be found on the relief works or on weaver relief, as this fact was considered to constitute a very fair practical criterion of exceptional necessitousness.

The funds to be placed at our disposal could not be expected to do more than relieve the most destitute, and the most pressing cases. The great object was to give help, which would be efficient for securing the purpose in view, to as many of these as might be possible. It was desired, above all things, to avoid frittering away the money at our disposal on wholesale and ineffectual grants of small sums to all and sundry. During the visit to Madras of the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, it was decided to abandon, as impracticable with the money likely to be available, the idea of attempting to give grants to ordinary coolies, or journeymen artizans on relief works, so as to give them something to live on until they commenced to earn wages again, *plus* a small sum for the purchase of clothes and household utensils. The objects to which money under head IV was to be devoted were accordingly laid down as—

- (1) Grants to buy cattle.
- (2) Grants to buy seed.
- (3) Grants to set up weavers and other artizans.
- (4) Grants to enable ryots to make a fresh start in life.

Accordingly, on the 11th of June, it was resolved to begin by making allotments for the purchase of seed, grain and cattle, so as to facilitate the cultivation of the light red soils of the four Deccan Districts at the rate of Rs50,000 to each. Rs1,03,000 was granted for similar purposes in Vizagapatam and Rs42,500 for Ganjam. In addition to this, Rs6,000 was granted for seed grain, etc., to the Koyas of Bhadrachallam in the Godavari Agency, and Rs10,000 to the hillmen of Palkonda in the Vizagapatam Agency.

Later on, the following allotments were made to assist the ryots in the heavy black cotton soils of the Deccan, whose cultivation is not undertaken before the end of August or in September. The following were the grants made for that purpose :—

	18th June.	6th July.
	R	R
Bellary	20,000	1,50,000
Kurnool	10,000	1,00,000
Anantapur	10,000	1,25,000
Cuddapah	10,000	1,35,000
TOTAL	50,000	5,10,000

The system on which these monies were ordered to be utilised was embodied in the following two circulars, dated, respectively, 12th June and 13th July :—

A.

Memorandum to District Committees in the Deccan Districts.

In consequence of reports received from some of the affected districts that in the red-soil villages the early sowings will commence at once, and that any relief which the Executive Committee might be disposed to give to the poorer ryots, to enable them to buy plough bullocks and seed grain, should be promptly given, we have been directed to place at your disposal a sum of Rs50,000 to meet immediate and urgent requirements. A remittance transfer receipt will accordingly be sent to you by the Honorary Treasurer.

2. We request that you will draw up a list of villages in which the early sowings are likely to begin at once, and make prompt arrangements for carrying out a careful village-to-village inspection, and for granting relief to such of the poorer pattadars as may be found to be in urgent need of such advances. To avoid delay, the villages should be divided between the official and non-official members, and each member furnished with sufficient funds for disbursement on the spot.

3. The relief should be confined *ordinarily* to ryots paying an assessment of Rs10 and less (on the aggregate number of their patahs, if they hold more than one) who have lost their cattle and seed grain, and whose resources have been completely exhausted. In exceptional cases, the relief may be extended to pattadars paying more than Rs10 but not more than Rs50, who may have similarly suffered. It may not be necessary in every case to grant money for both cattle and seed grain. In many cases, grants for seed grain alone, or bullocks alone, might be sufficient. For seed grain, half a rupee per acre should be ample. For bullocks in red-soil villages, not more than Rs20 to Rs30 should be given for a pair, and no ryot should be given more than Rs50 at the outside, except with the sanction of the District Committee. As the funds at the disposal of the Executive Committee are very limited, and as large grants will be required to meet the demands from other villages, it is necessary to restrict the relief to the most destitute.

4. A list of persons to whom money grants may be given as indicated above should be maintained in Form A-I, forwarded with circular, dated 12th March 1897, by each member (official or non-official) intrusted with the administration of relief, and the list in original should, after each village is completed, be forwarded to the District Committee, with a certificate appended stating that the money has been paid in his presence (and, if any other has been associated with him in the presence of) to the persons mentioned in the list. This will be accepted as a valid voucher for the sums so paid.

5. Every person to whom a money grant is given should be warned that he is bound to spend it on the object for which it is granted, and that it will be recovered if he is shown to have misappropriated it. With a view to prevent such misappropriation, it would be desirable, wherever possible, to cause a re-enquiry to be made in a few villages of each circle, by the same member or, failing him, some other trustworthy person, to find out how far the money has been properly expended.

6. In the remaining villages of the affected tracts, enquiry should also be set on foot without delay, and arrangements made for registering the names of those to whom grants for bullocks or seed grain or both will have to be given. It is not possible to say what allotment will be received from the Central Committee at Calcutta, but the list should contain full information, so that in the event of the allotment being curtailed, it would be easy to eliminate some of the names and restrict the relief only to the worst cases. Reference is requested, in this connection, to paragraph 5 of the circular letter of the Executive Committee, dated 11th March last.

B.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF

SIR,

At their meeting on the 6th instant, the Executive Committee made further allotments under head IV, the objects of which, we may remind you, have been thus specified:—

"In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life."

The allotment to your district was R

The remittance of this sum will be made as soon as we hear from you that the season admits of its being utilised by the ryots and that you are ready to disburse it. A further allotment to be communicated by telegram will be made as soon as the Central Committee has announced the result of its final distribution of funds on the 19th or 20th instant.

2. It will be clearly seen, on consideration of the objects mentioned above, that the distribution of money under this head must necessarily rest, in practice, on information and assistance derived from the Revenue Department in the district. Our District Committees, we believe, quite recognise this fact. The Executive Committee are, therefore, of opinion that the grants under this head should be put, in the first place, at the disposal of the Collectors, as has been done in other parts of India, and that the latter should be requested to make arrangements suitable to the circumstances and peculiarities of their districts for distributing the moneys. At the same time, the Executive Committee consider that the co-operation of the members of the District Committees and Sub-Committees should also be availed of as far as they are willing and able to give it.

3. It seems to the Executive Committee that the best method of securing a speedy and impartial distribution of the moneys would be as follows:—The Collector should at once call a meeting of the District Committee, and in conjunction with them allot proportionate sums to each taluk. The actual distribution should then be undertaken by the Divisional and Taluk Revenue officers and the members of the Committees conjointly. The disbursements should take place at one or more convenient centres in each taluk or division, on fixed days, by a mixed Board consisting of a Divisional or Taluk Revenue officer and members of the local Committees. The chosen recipients of each village should be summoned to attend, and with them the Karnam and the Reddi on a date to be intimated to them, and the sum decided upon should be handed over to each recipient in person, and his receipt taken in the list prepared for each village.

It seems to the Executive Committee that as few distributing centres as possible should be chosen, because the carrying about of considerable sums of money will present difficulties, and that the centres should preferably be places where, or near where, there are Government treasuries.

4. The relief should be confined *ordinarily* to ryots paying an assessment of R10 and less (on the aggregate number of their pattas, if they hold more than one) who have lost their cattle and seed grain, or whose resources have, from other causes, been completely exhausted. In exceptional cases, the relief may be extended to pattadars paying more than R10 but not more than R50, who may have similarly suffered. It may not be necessary in every case to grant money for both cattle and seed grain. In many cases, grants for seed grain alone, or bullocks alone, might be sufficient. For seed grain, half a rupee per acre should be ample. For bullocks in red-soil villages, not more than R20 to R30 should be given for a pair, and in black-soil villages R40 to 60, and no ryot should be given more than R50 at the outside, except with the sanction of the District Committee. As the funds at the disposal of the Executive Committee are very limited, and as large grants will be required to meet the demands, it is necessary to restrict the relief to the most destitute.

5. Every person to whom a money grant is given should be warned that he is bound to spend it on the object for which it is granted; and that it will be recovered if he is shown to have misappropriated it. With a view to prevent such misappropriation, it would be desirable, wherever possible, to cause a re-enquiry to be made in a few villages of each circle, by the member or, failing him, some other trustworthy person, to find out how far the money has been properly expended.

6. The Executive Committee request that you will kindly take as early steps as possible to carry out the distribution of the sum allotted on the lines suggested in this letter, copies of which have been forwarded to the District Committee for information.

These circulars were supplemented by various subsidiary instructions, both written and oral, on the part of the Chairman, who spent a month in personally supervising the arrangements. For instance, it was laid down that without complete lists it was impossible that the wants of a taluk could be ascertained, and no equitable allotment of the district grant could be made among its various taluks. The preliminary operation in question was also essential for the prevention of fraud on any large or general scale. In order to further avert any mistake, partiality or fraud, the following additional precautions were to be taken. The actual payments were to be made at two or three central places in each taluk, where the recipients, and the taluk and village officers, were assembled, the latter to identify recipients, in the same way in which the annual settlement, to which the people are accustomed, is conducted. The payments were to be made either by the Collector himself, or by an officer not lower in

rank than a Divisional Officer specially selected by him. Lastly, payments were, wherever possible, to be made only in the presence of at least two members of a District or Taluk Famine Fund Committee.

Lastly, on the 8th October final allotments under head IV were made to the following districts:—

	R	a.	p.
Bellary	1,00,000	0	0
Cuddapah	80,000	0	0
Kurnool	50,000	0	0
Anantapur	50,000	0	0
Ganjām	750	0	0
Vizagapatam	163	8	0
TOTAL	2,80,913	8	0

These grants were intended for the purpose of starting afresh in life impecunious cultivators, craftsmen and others who had been on Government relief, either of the ordinary kind or that specially designed for weavers. The system of registration and the method of distribution followed precisely similar lines to those described above. Elaborate information, as to the holdings and other property held by these people, and as to their losses and their debts, had been under systematic preparation for several months, in pursuance of a circular which was issued in the beginning of May.

The Committee has reason to believe, owing to the gratitude that has been expressed in various ways—by memorial, by resolutions at public meetings, and otherwise,—that the money spent by it under this head (IV) has been well spent, and that it has been efficacious in relieving much bitter distress. The total number of persons assisted with money for seed and bullocks, and with lump grants to alleviate their embarrassments was 161,952, and the total sum so distributed Rs 11,27,997.

In evidence of the care and self-denying labour which everywhere characterised the administration of the whole of this important portion of the Charitable Funds entrusted to this Committee, it may perhaps be permitted to make a quotation from a report received from Mr. A. C. Tate, the Collector of Cuddapah. This officer, in spite of the almost overwhelming duties attending the management of a huge district heavily stricken with famine, distributed no less than Rs 1,75,000 with his own hands.

"After settling preliminaries I proceeded to make disbursements. My object was to make the payment in an open place, and as publicly as possible, in order that every one might see and know what was going on. Opposite to my tent there was a raised platform which served the purpose very well, as from it we had a full view of the whole crowd of the proposed recipients and spectators. On this platform was arranged a table with seats all round. I sat in the middle. The Deputy Collectors, M. R. Ry. Runga Rao and Narayanasami Pillai, and the Tahsildar M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Pampapati Sastry took the seats on my right. On my left was seated V. Krishnama Chariu, my Hazur Sheristadar.* The shroff was seated in front of me with the bags of rupees, while another clerk was by his side to assist him in writing his chitta (account), and a third hand was employed in taking the receipts of the parties. In order to prevent the people from crowding near the paying spot, a spacious enclosure was railed off with bamboos in front of the platform. As each village was called up, all the people of that village were ranked inside that enclosure, whether their names were on the list or not. The village officers (Karnam and Reddi) were also present in most cases at the time of payment. The vast crowd of people of other villages were also witnessing the scene from behind the bamboo fence. The raised portion of the platform enabled me to watch all round and see what was going on, so that no peons or servants had any opportunity of misconducting themselves on the occasion, or interfering with the recipients of the charity. There was another advantage in this method of distributing the money publicly. As each name was called out in a loud voice, the person that emerged from the group within the bamboo fence as the possessor of that name, became the cynosure of all eyes, including those of many of his neighbours and acquaintances, and if he was not the right individual, the attempted deception was at once discovered. If he met with no challenge from his companions as he stood before the platform, he was put to some sort of test by being required to give the extent and assessment of his patta and his father's or house name, details on which points were already entered on the lists. This is the way in which parties were identified, and not by the help of village officers. . . . I observed that some of the people of the villages, who received payments in the beginning, did not go away straight to their villages as ordered by me, but tarried near the Katcherri. I suspected that this was possibly

* The names of two non-official members of the Taluk Committee are subsequently given as also present.

due to some improper arrangement with the village officers, and made the Reddis and Karnams sit in my presence for more than two hours after the last man of their village was paid, so that the recipients of the money might reach their villages before the Reddis and Karnams would overtake them on the way. I am sorry to say that it is my opinion that, in some few cases, the recipients of this charity have handed over portions of their doles to the village officers, and I feel sure that on compulsion can be used to make the recipients act in this way. What I have personally seen to is that the full amount of every dole has been publicly placed in the hands of the recipients, and I have taken all possible steps to ensure that there was no obstruction in the way, either of coming to receive the dole, or in taking it away home after receipt."

The natural timidity of the people and the unreliability of the village and other inferior servants of Government, presented difficulties everywhere, which were, however, discounted by the careful arrangements made by Collectors and the loyal manner in which these were carried out by their Divisional Officers and Tahsildars. Several wholesome prosecutions instituted in Bellary and elsewhere kept the evil fairly in check, and this Committee agrees with the various District Committees, which have noticed the point in considering that the all-important portion of the Fund's operations alluded to was admirably administered.

VI.

ORPHANS.

Owing to the comparative absence of disease amongst the poor during the late famine, and the sufficiency of the wages and rations laid down by Government, no large number of orphans is reported from any district. Correspondence is proceeding for the purpose of discovering what number of these children are likely to be adopted or taken charge of by private individuals or others. A provision of Rs20,000 has been set apart for the maintenance and bringing up of any which may be left on our hands.

VII.

CONCLUSION.

The gravity of the crisis through which the Madras Presidency has passed may be realized in some sort if it be remembered that the numbers of persons on State Relief, which was only 55,103 when this Committee was formed in February, rose to 830,686 on the 24th July. That was the turning point, and numbers steadily went down to 2,977 on 31st October.

As already stated in this Report, the North-East monsoon has been, more or less, a failure in the Deccan, and in some of the neighbouring districts. In the northern part of Nellore it has been found already necessary to open test works. But the northern districts are quite safe, while in the Deccan the forecast of the harvest is generally fair to middling. Very high prices, however, continue.

The Chairman of this Committee was out in the affected districts several times between April and September, for the purpose of inspecting and superintending Famine Fund operations and of consulting with the various Committees. All seven districts were inspected at least twice, and some of them four times. The Executive Committee held 39 meetings, at which every detail of administration was carefully considered and promptly disposed of.

As to the various District and Taluk Committees, the Executive Committee is indebted to their members for valuable assistance, and desires to record its sense of their self-denying labours. On the whole, perhaps, it may not be considered invidious to single out the District Committee of Cuddapah for special mention, because on it fell for many weeks the task of organising gratuitous relief, which was eventually taken over by the Collector after considerable delay. This was due partly to the difficulty experienced in getting together the necessary subordinate inspection establishment in an unhealthy district, where it is at all times hard to induce officials to serve. No mention of good work in Cuddapah would be complete without the inclusion of the name of the Honourable C. Jambulingam Mudaliyar, B.A., M.L. The able Honorary Secretary Mr. T. Munisawmi Ayyar, must also not be allowed to escape remembrance.

The Committee desires, likewise, to record its high sense of the services rendered to the Famine Fund by Mr. H. A. Stuart, I.C.S., the Collector of Bellary, in many ways too numerous to mention here. The effect of the exam-

ple set by his cordial co-operation, and his indefatigable labours, cannot be over-estimated. Mr. G. W. Gillman, I.C.S., too, the Secretary of the Bellary District Committee, did all that man could do in order to make the operations a success.

The Committee has likewise to specially thank Messrs. H. D. Taylor, I.C.S., W. O. Horne, I.C.S., V. A. Brodie, I.C.S., E. A. Elwin, I.C.S., R. H. Shipley, I.C.S., and A. C. Tate, I.C.S., for the cordial manner in which, as Collectors, they seconded the efforts of this Committee. Specially good work was done by Mr. E. C. Rawson, I.C.S., who, as Chairman of the Vizagapatam Committee, rendered valuable service; and thanks are due also to Dewan Bahadur R. Dammarao Nayudu for his tours of inspection in the same district. Mr. M. Subba Rau, the Tahsildar of Guntur, did capital work in the matter of fodder supply from the Kistna Delta; and Mr. S. Sundaraja Aiyangar, B.A., the Audit Deputy Collector, must not be forgotten for the energy and tact displayed by him in the troublesome duties which fell to his share in connection with the District Famine Fund accounts.

The figures used in this report are the latest available, and not those up to 31st October only. If the latter only had been used, this account of the doings of the Charitable Fund in Madras would have been fragmentary and incomplete. For, owing to local and seasonal peculiarities, a considerable part of the most important and interesting work carried out under the auspices of this Committee was completed during the few weeks immediately following the 31st October which was the dividing line selected by the Central Committee owing apparently to its suitability to provinces differently situated to Madras. In order, however, to prevent confusion in the accounts, expenditure before 1st November is entered in black ink, and that incurred subsequently to 31st October in red, in the figured statements which are submitted herewith. These statements have not been printed, as they are very elaborate and detailed and the cost of putting them into type would be very large.

C. S. CROLE,
Chairman.

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,
P. RAJARATHNA MOODELLIAR,
Honorary Secretaries.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
MADRAS BRANCH;
Madras, 21st December 1897.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX No. 1.

THE INAUGURAL PUBLIC MEETING AT MADRAS

A Public Meeting summoned by the Sheriff to organise the Madras Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was held on the 4th February 1897 at the Banqueting Hall at 5 P.M. and was very largely attended, the hall being crowded from the dais to the entrance. Among those present were the Hon'ble Mr. H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Grose, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Collins, *Kt.*, Q.C.; the Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Crole; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramanya Iyer, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bhashyam Iyengar, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Boddam; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Benson; the Most Reverend Archbishop Colgan; the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; Rajah Sir Savalai Ramasawmi Moodelliar, *Kt.*, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu; the Rev A. A. Williams; Mr. R. B. Michell; Dewan Bahadur P. Sreenivasa Rao; Mr. H. K. Beauchamp; Mr. H. G. Wedderburn; Mr. E. Barclay; Mr. H. C. West; Colonel Olcott; Mr. Murray Hammick; Mr. F. Bagshawe; Mr. R. F. Grant; Mr. John Adam; the Hon'ble Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot; the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Chambers; Mr. C. Michie Smith; Mr. R. G. Orr; Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee; Mr. M. Veeraraghava Chariar; Mr. Waljee Laljee; Rai Bahadur V. Kistnama Chariar; Mr. L. Kistnadoss Balamukundoss; Rev. James Cooling; Mr. W. T. Newitt; the Hon'ble Mr. V. Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur; Mr. P. T. Theagaroya Chettiar; Mr. H. Scott; Mr. J. A. Jones; Rev. W. F. Archibald; Mr. J. L. Spoor; Mr. S. Gurusawmy Chetty; Mr. W. Morgan; Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E.; Captain B. Portal; Captain Lowndes; Dr. J. Nield Cook; Mr. C. Sowden; Mr. J. H. M. Ryan; Mr. A. J. Yorke; Mr. G. Subramanya Iyer; Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiar; Mr. Glyn Barlow; Mr. H. Ormerod; Mr. W. Oakes; Mr. C. Seton; and many others.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr. H. A. Sim, Private Secretary, and Lord Herbert Scott, A.D.C., arrived shortly after 5 P.M., and was met at the Government House entrance to the Hall by the Sheriff and conducted to his place on the dais.

The Sheriff read the notice convening the meeting, announced the meeting duly convened, and called upon the gathering to elect a Chairman.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice said.—I have to propose the first Resolution that His Excellency the Governor do take the chair. I accordingly propose it.

Rajah Sir Savalai Ramasawmy Moodelliar seconded the Resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

His Excellency the Governor in opening the meeting said:—

MY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, MY LORD ARCHBISHOP AND GENTLEMEN.—I am proud to obey the summons to take the chair and to preside at this meeting of all that is best and most distinguished in our great city of Madras, a meeting called for the purpose of showing our sympathy with our distressed fellow-subjects in their dire calamity, and for the purpose of devising means for coming to their aid, and for giving them relief. It may be of use, I think, that I should state the objects to which it is thought that private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, and I should describe as briefly as I can the organisation which has been suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions. The objects to which it is thought our subscriptions would be most properly devoted, are as follows:—Firstly, in supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospitals, for children, and the like. As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life. Secondly, in providing for the maintenance of orphans. Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves. Thirdly, in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life. The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer. Now as to the organization which has been suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions. You are aware that (1) a Central Committee, termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief, has been established in Calcutta. That General Committee is unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each Province have been sent to it, and have been appointed; but the General Committee have nominated an Executive Committee to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee. The functions of the Central Committee are—(a) to receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed "The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897"; (b) to appropriate these moneys

between the different Provinces; (c) to arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied. (2) A Committee to be formed in each Province which will receive the moneys apportioned to that Province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the Province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund, and with the approval of the Local Government. (3) Local Committees are to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees, acting in concert with the local authorities. (4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other Agency, which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable. It is the work of the Local Committees which, as I understand it, will be the most difficult. It will be upon them that will devolve the task of deciding details as to the precise form of relief to be given, to determine the precise persons who should receive relief, and last, but not least, to exercise vigilance and circumspection to prevent the funds from being used unworthily and dishonestly. Past experience has shown how almost impossible it is to discharge these duties effectually.

You have doubtless observed that criticisms have been passed upon the authorities because they did not, at an earlier date, invoke the flow of private generosity. In my judgment those criticisms were unreasonable and unjust. I believe that earlier action was in no way necessary, and that a precipitate and premature call on private charity might have been mischievous. The very nature of the objects to which it is thought that private charity should be devoted is such as not to call for action during the first stage of the distress; and it was obviously prudent to avoid the individual bestowal of the charity until the gravity of the situation was fully established. An exaggerated or false alarm would have permanently injured public confidence, with results which might in the case of future calamity of a like kind, have proved disastrous. Without in any way wishing to minimise the degree of the terrible calamity which has fallen upon the country, I do not think it is otherwise than wholesome to seek as much encouragement and consolation as may be derived from comparing our present situation with our situation at the time of the great famine of 1876-78. The present famine covers a larger area, and affects a larger population than the Madras famine of 1876-78, but up to the present its intensity is happily less in degree. In the former famine the numbers employed on relief works reached the maximum of 2,779,000. The highest number reached in the present famine is 1,296,000, or less than one-half. The maximum number receiving gratuitous relief was in 1876-78, 1,345,000, at present the number is 465,000, or less than one-third. The organisation and appliances for dealing with the crisis are now incomparably better than they were in 1876-78. The actual loss of life will probably be insignificant in comparison. I think also we may reflect with satisfaction on the perennial stream of private charity, which, by immemorial custom and tradition, flows through the great desert of poverty and want in this country. I believe I am right in saying that private charity in India, with a population of about 300 millions, takes the place of the pauper relief given in the United Kingdom, amounting for a total population of under 40 millions, and for a pauper population of about one million to the enormous sum of 12 millions sterling per annum. But, having indulged for a moment in the reflections I have called up, let us face without flinching the fact that we have a difficulty before us which is beyond the power of the State and beyond the ordinary sources of charity to combat completely. Let us in Madras remember the terrible visitation of 20 years ago and the generosity and sympathy then shown us by our brethren of the North, and let us now eagerly seize this opportunity of helping to comfort and succour them in their adversity. Let us not forget also that, though famine in an acute form or in an extensive degree has not yet invaded our own Presidency, we have scarcity and distress over a considerable area which we can and should help to alleviate, and do not let us be too sanguine that the situation may not become worse in our own affected districts. I hope to be able within a short time to visit the Bellary District, with the object of seeing for myself the working of our Famine Code and the actual aspect of affairs in that our most distressed tract. And now, gentlemen, I leave the matter in your hands, feeling sure that the kind hearts and the good sense of the people of Madras will know how to give effect to the purposes which have drawn us together to-day. (*Cheers.*)

The Hon'ble Mr. G. G. ARBUTHNOT in moving the next Resolution said:—

GENTLEMEN,—We have met here this evening to organise our forces to join in the campaign against India's deadliest foe, against a famine more widespread, more threatening, perhaps to become more terrible, than any that has visited this country for generations. I am proud, we are all proud, to be citizens of Madras, and I am sure that at this great crisis Madras will be true to her traditions of generosity, and all the more so, because with many of us the memory is still fresh of that awful time, just 20 years ago, when we ourselves in this Presidency passed through the burning fiery furnace, and when at the hour of our utmost need we received help, generous and ungrudging, from our fellow-countrymen in all parts of the Empire. Gentlemen, it is characteristic of the British race to be outwardly cold, phlegmatic, and unemotional, but when the feelings of the people are greatly moved that coldness quickly disappears—it is only at the surface—and it covers generous impulses and warm hearts. But if this is true of Englishmen, what shall I say of the natives of India, with whom the exercise of charity is not only a vital part of their religion, but amongst rich and poor alike is so interwoven with their daily life as to be part of their very being, and is with them from the cradle to the grave. (*Hear, hear.*) It is a noble characteristic of the people of this country that an appeal to their benevolence, whether public or private, is rarely indeed made in vain. I need not detain you this evening with statistics—appalling statistics they are—of the vast numbers already on Famine Relief Works, or with estimates of the further millions by which it is only too likely that these numbers will soon be swelled. Nor, I think, need I explain to you the directions in which it is proposed that private charity should assist and supplement Government Relief, for this has been lucidly and admirably set forth in the special supplement to the *Gazette of India*, dated the 9th January, to which the Press has given the widest publicity. The question has been asked whether funds subscribed here in Madras are to be devoted exclusively to the relief of distress in this Presidency. I should like in this connection to read you a short extract from the

Viceroy's very eloquent speech at the recent great public meeting in Calcutta. He said: "I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds on those in a position to act with a knowledge of local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that, in accordance with the scheme of organization which will be submitted to this meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day, and that, the principles of action being once laid down, Provincial Committees will be allowed the amplest discretion in the management of their own funds. Those funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own Province, and, in the second place, of a proportion of the General Fund which may be allotted to the Province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of money entrusted to the Central Committee either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required, or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot, from so great a distance, determine themselves where great need may be." It seems to me that what the Viceroy here proposes as to the administration and disposal of Provincial Relief Funds is fair and equitable, and I would most earnestly deprecate the idea going forth that, in this time of almost universal trouble, Madras thought only of her own needs and her own troubles. Face to face with this great imperial crisis, every jarring note of petty jealousy should be hushed, every distinction of colour, creed or caste, must be swept away as in a moment, and our ears must not be deaf to the bitter cry of our starving fellow countrymen north or south, east or west, throughout every part of India—going beyond any Province. (*Hear, hear.*) And now, before concluding, I hope it will not be thought that I am bold if I venture to say one word in earnest appeal to the Government, that their rules with regard to the execution of task work and to famine allowance should be liberally and mercifully interpreted. (*Hear, hear.*) We all know their difficulties." The vastness of the work they have undertaken, the enormous strain involved on their financial resources, and the necessity which they feel of safe-guarding the public money and seeing that it is not wasted or misapplied. It is a noble task for a Government to undertake, and I doubt not that it will be boldly discharged. But the experience of our own famine in 1877 showed that strictness in protecting the public purse was apt sometimes—with the best of motives, no doubt—to be carried too far. In the *Gazette* which I have already referred to, Government has laid down the rule that "as guardian of the public purse and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary to preserve life." But if, when the famine is over and happier times come again, a large proportion of those poor starving millions who have been receiving relief have been reduced to a state of physical debility which means that the life which has been preserved to them will be not only a short but a miserable existence, and that they can never again regain the health and strength to do an honest day's work and earn a day's wage—then surely our efforts will have been futile and our millions spent in vain. (*Hear, hear.*) To aid in preventing this is one of the chief objects for which your generous aid is invoked to-night, but if left to private charity alone I fear the task may be greater than it is able to accomplish, in spite of the vastness of the scale on which that charity is being organized.

The Hon'ble Mr. V. BHASHYAM IVENGAR seconded the Resolution in the following terms :—

It gives me great pleasure to second the proposition so eloquently and so ably moved by Mr. Arbuthnot. In doing so I sincerely hope that in the matter of private donations to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, the people of Madras will not be behind those of any other part of the world throughout which an appeal is now being made for the relief of the distressed throughout India, and is being so liberally and sympathetically responded to. I think it is unnecessary to detain you with any further remarks on a matter of this sort which must commend itself to the whole of the audience and the presidency.

The Ven'ble the ARCHDEACON of Madras in supporting the Resolution said :—

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—Before saying a few words in support of the Resolution which has been proposed and seconded, I shall be glad to read a telegram received to-day from the Bishop of Madras, who is now on tour in Berar. It runs as follows :—"Bishops at Calcutta agreed to request Clergy beside subscription lists to invite collection in Churches for famine relief first Sunday March. Tell the Governor I sympathise with public meeting." Those of us who remember the famine of 1876—1878 do not need to have more than that memory to stir us up to do all we can to help at the present time of need. The sights that we then saw impressed themselves so in our minds that it was almost impossible for a time to think of aught else. And, Sir, I think we were also impressed with that need to which Mr. Arbuthnot has referred, namely, the need of help being given in the earlier stages of distress. When once the grip of famine has seized full hold of a man, it is hard even when relief comes to fight off death, or if this is done to restore the man to such vigour as shall enable him to earn well again his own living. It seems to me that—looking at all we hear from the statement of Government or from the public papers—that we may fairly conclude there is not only need of immediate help but we have to look forward to the need that there will be of continuous help. The need for help must from the circumstances of the case increase month by month for some months to come. We need therefore not only the large contributions which may now come in, but we need systematic giving, month by month, or at some other stated intervals, so that there may be while the need lasts a continual flow of subscriptions. Your Excellency has referred to the fact, that although we have been spared real famine in this Presidency yet that there are tracts of land where the scarcity and high prices have led to aid being given by Government. There can be no doubt that such was the case in more than one part some little time ago. A gentleman who has spent many years of his life on the Gódávri, at Dummagudem, wrote as follows :—"Distress is indeed creeping on and on all around us. No millet is allowed to be imported from the Nizam's country on the other side of the river. At present no grain is coming in from Bustar or the Central Provinces. There have been some slight showers in some parts of the taluk, and the millet in the villages close to the Gódávri may yield a half crop, but in the Koi villages all is gone. Providentially the early rain crop was quite an average one. The severe distress will begin in a few weeks. At present many have some grain and they are digging roots in the jungles everywhere." And with reference to money

that had been sent the writer adds :—" We will use the money you have sent most carefully and economically." That there is need of aid from private sources and aid given through the organisation of Local Committees—none I think can doubt. An officer who served many years in India in this Presidency, wrote lately, " Vast as the Government organisation is, how is it possible for it to reach the homes of such multitudes and deal the food to the women, the children, the sick and the weaky ?" While therefore thoroughly agreeing with Mr. Arbuthnot, that we should gladly send our subscriptions to the Central Fund, yet at the same time we may remember that in some measure aid also is required in this Presidency. Representing as I do the Church of England to-day, I can only say that I believe every effort will be made by our members to help all who need, without distinction of race, caste, or creed and judging from the past we may hope that large help will be given.

Mr. R. G. ORR in supporting the Resolution said that it was only since he entered the hall that he discovered that his name was connected with the Resolution, and he was sorry, therefore, that he was not prepared with any speech. He had much pleasure, however, in supporting the Resolution, commending the objects of the meeting very warmly and heartily to all. There could be no doubt of the immense necessity which lay before them and the terrible scenes which would be witnessed in the land especially in the North. He would specially press upon the meeting as one reason for giving liberally and heartily that this time at least Madras had been spared from the terrible famine and distress that oppressed it in 1876-78. Perhaps there was also another point he would like to mention and that was to endorse the recommendation of the Ven'ble Archdeacon as to regular, monthly or periodical payments. He trusted that all would show their gratitude for their exemption—at any rate partial—from famine by responding very liberally to the fund to which they were now called to subscribe.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR having put the motion to the vote it was carried with acclamation. His Excellency then said that the principal motion having been carried and the appointment of a Provincial Committee for the purpose of raising funds having been decided on, he had much pleasure in announcing the promises of subscription which had been received.

Letters, Telegrams and Subscriptions.

The Rajah of Bobbili sent the following telegram :—

" Sorry unable to attend meeting. I gladly contribute Rs.10,000. No more worthy object to contribute to than relieving people from starvation. I already sanctioned Rs.20,000 for special irrigation and other works in my estate. Kindly inform His Excellency."

His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore and His Highness the Rajah of Cochin wired that each subscribed Rs.5,000 towards the fund.

Mr. W. Taylor, Agent to the Zemindar of Parlákimedi, sent the following telegram :

" The Rajah of Parlákimedi has already opened relief works, and is spending large sums locally. Should it be necessary he is prepared to spend three lakhs in district relief works. So while assuring you of his sympathy and wishing the meeting great success, he feels unable at present to subscribe to the General Famine Fund."

Mr. H. G. Turner, late Collector of Vizagapatam, telegraphed as follows :—" Please enter my name famine subscription Rs.1,000."

The Rajah of Venkatagiri wrote sympathising with the meeting and announcing subscription of Rs.1,000.

Messrs. Best & Co., Madras, have subscribed Rs.1,000.

The Maharajah of Vizianagram has subscribed Rs.20,000, his telegram having been received after the meeting.

The Sultan Ali Rajah of Cannanore and the Zemindar of Dharakota have each subscribed Rs.500.

The Zemindar of Siripuram contributed Rs.300.

The Rajah of Kallikota and Atagada sent the following telegram :—" Rajah proposes spending money on his own estates which have suffered severely from scarcity and elsewhere in this district where help needed, and does not for the moment at any rate propose to offer contribution to the Central Fund. Am opening kitchens and taking other measures. Rajah would possibly contribute later if need be."

The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of Southern India reports that that Association in conjunction with the various District Associations is organising a Relief Fund amongst the Planters.

Rajah Sir S. Ramasavmi in contributing Rs.2,000 wrote as follows :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I beg most humbly to lay before your Excellency, for the information of the meeting, that when we were receiving most heart-rending accounts of the severe distress from famine that was prevailing and growing gradually worse in Northern India, I just then learnt that the famine meeting was to be held in Calcutta, and as at that time there was no sign of a similar meeting being held in Madras, I wired to Calcutta my subscription of Rs.3,000 to the Indian Famine General Relief Fund. But though I have done so, yet not wishing to be a non-donor in my own Presidency, when an occasion has arisen, I beg to offer another donation of Rs.2,000, and 2,000 cloths for the sole benefit of the distressed men and women in the parts of this Presidency affected by the famine. As a reason for my offering cloths, I beg to say for the information of your Excellency and the meeting, that from the year 1876 whenever a famine or scarcity prevailed in the Presidency of Madras, I have sent money and cloths to the Collectors and their Assistants in the affected districts for distribution among the distressed there. A large number of such cloths were distributed in several affected districts by Lord Wenlock himself in person during his tour there in 1891-92.

The Commandant of His Excellency the Governor's Body Guard sent a cheque for Rs. 72-1-10, being the amount of one day's pay subscribed by the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of His Excellency the Governor's Body Guard towards the Famine Fund,

The Most Reverend Archbishop COLGAN then moved the next Resolution, that the following gentlemen be invited to serve on the Provincial Committee with power to add to their number; and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund:—

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G.; the Maharajah of Travancore, G.C.S.I.; the Maharajah of Vizianagram, G.C.I.E.; the Maharajah of Jaipur; the Rajah of Cochin; the Rajah of Pudukota; the Prince of Arcot; the Nawab of Banganapalli, C.S.I.; the Rajah of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E.; the Rajah of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.; the Rajah of Kalahastri; the Rajah of Ramnad; the Rajah of Sundur, C.I.E.; Eliah Rajah of Travancore; Rajah G. N. Gajapati Rao, C.I.E.; the Zemindar of Punganur; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Ananda Charlu; Messrs. W. P. Austin; G. G. Arbuthnot; J. Adam, M.A.; Rev. W. F. Archibald; Messrs. M. Abboyi Naidu; N. Appalaraju; N. Appusundrum Pillay; N. Adipuram Pillay; P. Aiyasawmy Moodelliar, M.A., B.L.; the Hon'ble Messrs. Justice Benson; Justice Boddam; H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.; V. Bhashyam Iyengar, C.I.E.; Messrs. F. T. Bagshawe; H. K. Beauchamp; Glyn Barlow; Kenworthy Brown; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Branfoot; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Browne; Surgeon-Major W. B. Bannerman; Surgeon-Major W. B. Browning; Messrs. Reddy Branson; R. V. Basava Pillay; Haji Mahomed Hadi Badsha Sahib; B. Baliah Naidu; R. Balakistna Chetty; M. Buchi Babu Naidu; Haji Mahomed Azeez Badsha Sahib; H. E. Sir Mansfield Clarke; the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Collins, Kt., Q.C.; the Hon'ble Colonel D. McN. Campbell; His Grace Archbishop J. Colgan, D.D.; Brigadier-General J. T. Cummins, D.S.O.; the Hon'ble Mr. C. S. Crole; the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Chambers; Messrs. H. O'C. Cardozo, C.I.E.; B. H. Chester, M.A.; P. Chent-sul Row, C.I.E.; Rai Bahadur C. V. Cunniha Chetty; Francis Cripps; B. N. Chandik; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Davies; the Hon'ble D. Duncan, D.Sc.; the Right Rev. DeSilva, D.D.; the Ven'ble Archdeacon Erwes; Messrs. V. P. D'Rozario; V. C. Desika Chariar; Rajah Easwara Doss; Rai Bahadur M. Ethiraja Pillay; E. H. Elliott; Cowasjee Eduljee; C. Ethirajulu Chetty; the Right Rev. Bishop Gell, D.D.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Grose, C.I.E.; Messrs. R. F. Grant; Salla Gurusawmy Chetty; F. C. Harrison; Hussan Ali Khan Bahadur; C. Iyahasawmy Pillay; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Jambulingam Moodelliar; Mr. O. R. Jones; the Hon'ble Mr. K. Kalyanasoondrum Iyer; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. King, M.B.; Messrs. Rai Bahadur V. Krishnama Chetty; P. V. Krishnasawmy Chetty; B. Kistniah Naidu; Dewan Bahadur C. Kalyanasoondrum Chetty; Kushal Doss Chutterbutha Doss; L. Kistna Doss Balamukundoss; Kurushed Husain Sahib; N. Kristnasawmy Naidu; K. Kristnasawmy Chetty; W. J. H. LeFanu; B. Lavery; the Hon'ble the Rev. Dr. W. Miller, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur; Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel J. Maitland; the Right Rev. Bishop T. Mayer, D.D.; Messrs. J. M. Maskell; J. Matheson; William Morgan; Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E.; Rajah Moothookistnah Yachendra Bahadur; Messrs. R. B. Mitchell; Mahomed Mahmood Khan Bahadur; Mahomed Ali Namaji; V. Masilamony Pillay; Murlidoss Ramdoss; C. Mukunda Naidu; P. Murugasa Moodelliar; C. Muthukomarasawmy Moodelliar; B. Madava Chetty; Mirza Mehdy Hasham Ispahani; Sri Rajah of Mandasa; E. Norton; T. Numberumal Chetty; S. Narayansawmy Chetty; K. Narayana Rao; R. G. Orr; W. H. Oakes; W. P. Oakshott; H. Ormerod; Colonel H. S. Olcott; the Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Price, C.S.I.; The Kumara Rajah of Pittapore; Dr. S. Palani Andi; Messrs. C. R. Pat-tabirama Iyer; G. Paramaswaram Pillay; A. C. Parthasarathy Naidu; M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar; the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, C.I.E.; Rajah Sir S. Ramasawmy Moodelliar, Kt. C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; Messrs. F. Rowlandson; C. Ramachundra Rao Sahib; the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu; Major F. Romilly; Messrs. Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chetty; V. Rajarathnam Chetty; R. Runga Row; M. R. Ramakristna Iyer; T. Ramachendra Iyer; P. Rajagopala Chariar; Rai Bahadur V. Ragava Chariar; B. Rungiah Chetty; T. Runga Chariar; T. Ruthnasawmy Nadar; M. Ramakristniah Pantulu; S. Runganatha Tawker; D. Rungamannar Chetty; C. S. Rajarathna Moodelliar; P. Rajarathna Moodelliar; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. H. Shephard; the Hon'ble Mr. N. Subba Rao; The Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Subramanya Iyer, C.I.E.; the Hon'ble Mr. G. Stokes; the Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankara Nayar; Surgeon-Major-General C. Sibthorpe; Colonel H. R. Shelley; Messrs. H. A. Scott; H. A. Sim; C. Michie Smith; A. Seshiah Sastriar, C.S.I.; C. V. Sundaram Sastriar; N. Subramanyam; C. Sowden; C. Seton; Syed Mahomed Sahib Bahadur, J. H. Stone; S. Sathianathan, M.A.; L. D. Swamicunnoo Pillai; S. Sunkara Subbier, C.I.E.; Dewan Bahadur P. Sreenivasa Rao; V. Sultan Moideen Sahib Bahadur; A. Sankariah; P. Subramanya Iyer; K. P. Sankara Menon; S. Subroya Achary; P. Somasundrum Chetty; G. Subramanya Iyer; Rai Bahadur R. V. Sreenivasa Iyer; P. M. Sivagnanam Moodelliar; V. Subbaraman Chetty; Syed Hasham Bilgrami; P. Seetharama Chetty; M. A. Singara Chari; Rai Bahadur A. Thanakoti Moodelliar; P. Theagaraya Chetty, B.A.; C. Thirumalai Naidu; C. S. Theagaraya Moodelliar P. Theagaraya Chetty; The Hon'ble Mr. C. Vijiaragava Chetty; Rajah Venugopala Kistna Yachendra Bahadur; Dewan Bahadur T. Venkasawmy Rao; Messrs. W. S. Vencataramanujam Naidu; M. Veeraraghava Chetty; V. Varadappa Naidu; P. Veloo Chetty; R. Vedanta Charlu; M. Venugopauloo Pillay; M. Varadajulu Chetty; M. Vencataramiah Chetty; S. Vencatakristnamah Chetty; T. Vythianatha Iyer; Batham Vencatarathna Chetty; Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker; Messrs. H. C. West; H. G. Wedderburn; Waljee Laljee Sait; C. Wrenn; A. J. Yorke; C. Yethirajulo Naidu; and all District Magistrates and District Judges.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice SUBRAMANYA IYER seconded the proposition, and in doing so said it was unnecessary to say very much beyond the fact that it greatly depended on the labours of the Committee how Madras would acquit itself on this extremely important occasion. He would only ask such of his countrymen as were on the Committee to remember that a great responsibility lay on them, whether when this work was over they could say they had acquitted themselves well or not. He would only ask them to try and do their best to make the Committee a success.

The Hon'ble Mr. CROLE in supporting the Resolution said:—

Your Excellency, My Lord and Gentlemen,—I propose, with the permission of this meeting, to confine myself to submitting for consideration a very few observations, which may not be considered out of place in supporting the Resolution which has just been proposed for its acceptance. A new generation has sprung up since the fierce trial through which this Presidency passed in 1877-78. To most, even the oldest of many amongst you, the great famine may be hardly more than a memory of contemporaneous fact. Those, however, who were in the thick of the combat have burned into their minds recollections of it which can never be effaced. It was a veritable scourge of God, aggravated by the shortcomings of man. There was little to guide the actors in that struggle, but they resolutely

fought it out. Some of them fell, many were disabled; but in spite of numerous failures and mistakes, they added a notable page to the history of the connection of the British with India. The Famine Code has changed all that. The duty of Government is to save starvation and to ensure that the labouring classes cannot be allowed, owing to want of food, to fall below reasonable physical efficiency, is well recognised. The means for the due performance of that duty are mapped out with great completeness of detail. It may be asserted that in the South of India a repetition of 1877 is now absolutely impossible. The present local scarcity in Madras is happily merely a misfortune, and not a disaster. But there is a phase of the struggle against famine which lies outside and beyond the settled sphere of Government operations. The organisations of the charitable funds must go far beyond relief of distress in order to be efficient, and in order to avoid waste and demoralisation, must proceed on lines which will in no way clash or compete with the operations of the State. The sphere of charity is the rescue of those sufferers from famine who cannot be reached by Government. Government can, as a rule, take care of the wage-earning class and the lowly poor only, to use those terms in their broadest signification. Charitable relief, on the other hand, besides dealing with pressing isolated cases among those classes, has its proper place in endeavouring to seek out and relieve distress among those who would not resort to Government Works or Poor-houses. It should especially, by timely aid, prevent individuals from stooping down in degradable positions with the ranks of daily labourers. It ought to do its best to hold out a helping hand to the hardworking cultivator, so that he may tide over the bad times. Last of all, charitable relief ought to be ready with aid to ryots and others who have suffered, so that they may be enabled to resume their avocations immediately after the welcome rain of the S. W. monsoon appears with June. I have taken the liberty of defining the position, because it appears to be hardly well enough understood. For instance, Mr. J. M. Maclean, who ought to know better, wrote to the *London Times* on the 4th January, as if charitable relief was required to enable officials to redeem the responsibilities of Government and "to cope with the calamity which is desolating the country." In 1877-78, I freely admit, as one of those responsible, that the £740,000 contributed by the British public was not satisfactorily administered. I am supported in this view by the present Secretary of State, who writing to Mr. W. Digby on the 6th January last, pointed out that the times had changed, and that the records of the operations of the Mansion House Fund of those days would be of little use at the present juncture. The great defect then was the preponderance of others than Indian gentlemen in the work of the Committees. That may have been unavoidable, but it is so no longer. The country had made great strides during the past 20 years. The public conscience is now becoming awakened to the conception of the public duty. If this view is correct, it will be exhibited in a great flow of subscriptions for the raising of your own people in the Ceded Districts, and still more conspicuously, for help to your brethren in the Central and the North-West Provinces. I am now addressing the Indian gentlemen present. But the great advantage of Indian gentlemen everywhere taking their proper place in this work will be that, by their personal efforts alone, will it be possible to ensure that the subscriptions and funds get into the hands of the proper parties, whom they alone have the power of searching out. They alone can, in fact, prevent waste and obviate demoralisation, and thus make these charity funds a real boon. I have no fear of the result, if it be only generally recognised that not only subscriptions, but devoted work and zeal are required. From this point of view, the present movement appears to me capable of being converted into a powerful educative force, and in the days to come when all this is ended, all concerned will recognise that, in a two-fold sense, it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

The Hon'ble Mr. RUNGIAH NAIDU also supported the Resolution in the following speech:—

GENTLEMEN,—Your Excellency—It is a great satisfaction to me to be able to take part in this movement for the relief of human distress. The promoters of the movement have wisely inaugurated it under the distinguished auspices of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock; and in supporting the proposition which places before you the names of the gentlemen who will form the Committee to carry out the humane work we have in view, I venture to express the confident hope that, with such names as have been proposed, we shall not be lacking in the influence of wealth, rank or position. It is a great calamity that has overtaken the country just now; and we have every hope that the Government, with the help of charity which has been extended from different parts of the civilised world, will be able to successfully tide over the present crisis. Poverty is always with us; it is chronic in this country; but it is only at intervals that it attains such an acute stage; and then all the resources of the Government have been most willingly and readily utilised by our rulers in their anxiety to save the lives of Her Majesty's poor subjects. Gentlemen, it is a duty and obligation with all of us, officials and non-officials, to actively co-operate with our benign Government in its efforts for the relief of distressed humanity; and I am sure the names that were read out to you would commend themselves to your hearty acceptance as being those of gentlemen who can ably do the work we have set before us.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR put the motion to the meeting when it was carried unanimously.

His Excellency then said that before closing the meeting he had much pleasure in announcing the following further subscriptions:—Messrs. P. Murugasam & Co., Rs500, L. Kistnadoss Balamukundoss and his son, Rs2,000.

His Excellency suggested that donors and subscribers in making their contributions should say whether they wished them devoted to the interest of all parts of India, or specially to the Funds of this Presidency. The Provincial Committee having now been duly appointed, he thought all would agree that the sooner they set to work the better. He would therefore propose that the Provincial Committee should hold a meeting in the Banqueting Hall on Monday next at 5 P.M. for the purpose of appointing an Executive Committee and transacting such other business as might come before them.

The business of the meeting having closed the Hon'ble Mr. V. MAHOMED SHERIFF KHAN proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for presiding. It was seconded by Mr. L. KISTNADOSS BALAMUKUNDOSS and carried.

The Sheriff then dissolved the meeting.

APPENDIX No. 2.

FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the Provincial Committee of the Fund was held on 8th February 1897 at the Banqueting Hall, with His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock in the chair. The meeting was largely attended by members of the Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY observed that the purpose for which they had met that evening was to elect their Executive Committee, a Committee to whom they should entrust the real business of collecting and administering the Charitable Fund. The Executive Committee would, he supposed, in their turn select Local Committees who would carry out the work in districts which might be assigned to them. A paper had been put into his hands which contained the names of a certain number of gentlemen whom, he understood, the present meeting would be willing to accept as their representatives on the Executive Committee. The following were the names :—

Chairman.—The Hon'ble Mr. Crole.

Vice-Chairmen.—The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramanya Iyer, Rajah Sir Savalai Ramaswami Moodelliar, the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu, and the Hon'ble Mr. Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.

Treasurer.—The Hon'ble Mr. G. Arbuthnot.

Honorary Secretaries.—Mr. H. K. Beauchamp and the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur P. Rajaratna Moodelliar.

Members of the Committee.—The Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankaran Nair, the Hon'ble Mr. C. Jambulingum Moodelliar, the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bhashyam Iyengar, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Benson, Mr. M. Viraraghavachariar, Mr. Mirza Mahdi Ispahani, Mr. Kristnadoss Balamukundoss, Mr. R. G. Orr, Mr. Glyn Barlow, Mr. W. J. H. LeFanu, Surgeon-Lt.-Col. W. G. King, His Grace Archbishop Colgan, the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes, Mr. John Adam, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock, Col. G. M. J. Moore, Mr. H. Scott, Mr. H. C. West, Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee, Rev. Mr. Archibald, Mr. R. V. Srinivasa Iyer, and Rev. E. Sell.

HIS EXCELLENCY wished to know if the meeting approved of the Executive Committee as proposed.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU suggested that the Executive Committee should have power to add to their number.

HIS EXCELLENCY thought that there could be no objection to the suggestion being carried out.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANYA IYER observed that there were not enough Indian members on the Committee. He wished to know whether the number of members for the Executive Committee was fixed.

HIS EXCELLENCY replied that the number was not fixed, but he thought that for convenience the Committee should not be too numerous.

Colonel OLCOTT said that every one of them as a member of the Committee was conscientiously bound by the action of their Executive Officers, that if they were to delegate to them the entire authority of the Committee, they should see that the Committee chosen was composed of men who were willing to do the work and in whose conscientious discharge of the work they had confidence. He fancied that he was expressing the views of those present in saying that the Committee should represent the whole community of the Madras Presidency, so that hereafter there might be no complaint made. He had been very much struck by the remark made the other day by the Hon'ble Mr. Crole that the Famine Fund of 1877 had been more or less maladministered, because there had been a preponderance of European members on the Committee. His opinion was that in forming that Committee there should be such a balance between the official and the non-official, between the European and the Native element, as would make it a model Committee who would do their work in the most thorough manner, and who at the end of that unfortunate campaign would come out of the thing with the confidence of the whole community.

It was proposed by Mr. G. SUBRAMANYA IYER, seconded by Mr. B. Bauliah Naidu and carried, "that six more Indian gentlemen be added to the Committee."

HIS EXCELLENCY called upon Mr. Subramanya Iyer to suggest the names.

Colonel MOORE proposed, and the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu seconded, "that the names be submitted to the Executive Committee."

The proposition was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Now gentlemen, I leave the work of this important undertaking in the hands of the Committee which we, the Provincial Committee, have just chosen, and I do so with the greatest pleasure and confidence.

At the instance of Mr. RUNGIAH NAIDU, the following names were added to the Provincial Committee to represent the several Mofussil districts :—

Madras.—The Right Rev. Bishop Morley, Mr. David Leighton, Colonel Olcott, Mr. M. Duraiswamy Pathur, of Messrs. Arulanandam and Sons, and M. Vencatasawmy Naidu.

Anantapur.—Mr. P. Kesava Pillay and Rev. Stevenson.

Arcoi (North).—Mr. Mahomed Habibulla Sahib and Rev. W. J. Chamberlain.

Bellary.—Mr. Mathew Abraham, Mr. P. C. Ananthacharlu, Mr. Mari Siddappah, and Mr. M. Ramanjulu Naidu.

Cuddapah.—Rev. D. Leighton and Mr. T. M. Munisawmy Iyer.

Ganjam.—Rev. J. C. Archibald, Mr. B. B. C. Chatterjea, Mr. D. V. Ramayya Pantulu, Mr. W. L. Venkataramayya, Mr. T. V. Siva Rao, Rajah of Parlakimedi, and Rajah of Kallikottah.

Godavari.—Rev. F. J. Macready, Mr. G. Venkataratnam, Mr. K. Perraz, Mr. Nallam Padbanabham, and Mr. C. Sitaramayya.

Kistna.—Mr. Venkatasubba Rao, Mr. P. Venkatappa, Rao Bahadur S. Lingayya, Mr. P. Venkatakrishnayya Naidu, Mr. J. W. Maiden, and Rev. Wolfe.

Kurnool.—Rev. William Staunton and Mr. T. Chidambara Rao.

Vizagapatam.—Mr. V. Suriyanarayana Sastri, Mr. K. Ramanuja Chariar and Mr. V. Ananta Rao.

Mr. G. ARBUTHNOT:—I wish to make a statement with the permission of His Grace Archbishop Colgan. At the end of the last famine, a sum of Rs. 8,000 was left in the hands of my firm as Treasurers of the Famine Fund; and an arrangement was made some time later that this should be put at interest. The Archbishop is the only Trustee living in this country, and the total amount of this fund is something over Rs. 11,000, and he has authorised me to state that we may place this fund at the disposal of this Provincial Committee.

His EXCELLENCY.—I am sure, gentlemen, we have heard the announcement made by Mr. Arbuthnot with great satisfaction. It adds a very substantial sum to the funds at our disposal.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Rajah Sir Savalai Ramasawmi Moodelliar, the meeting was brought to a close.

The following names were subsequently added to the Executive Committee:—

- (1) Mr. K. Narayana Rao.
- (2) Mr. P. Theagaraya Chettiar.
- (3) Mr. G. Parameswera Pillai.
- (4) Mr. Hajee Mahomed Patcha Saib.
- (5) Mr. N. Subramanyam.
- (6) The Honourable the Raja of Bobili.
- (7) Reverend W. A. Westcott.
- (8) The Honourable Mr. P. Anandacharlu.

APPENDIX No. 3.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE COLLECTIONS BY THE VARIOUS DISTRICT COMMITTEES UP TO 31ST OCTOBER 1897.

Districts.	General Fund.	Provincial Fund.	Total.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Ganjam	1,856 0 0	5,301 2 4	7,157 2 4
Vizagapatam	3,124 5 6	4,299 3 0	7,423 8 6
Godavari	2,098 6 4	10,043 7 8	12,141 14 0
Bellary	750 0 0	4,404 9 0	5,154 9 0
Cuddapah . . . . .	.....	2,886 13 7	2,886 13 7
Anantapur	100 0 0	4,836 4 0	4,936 4 0
Kurnool	200 0 0	2,703 4 11	2,903 4 11
Malabar . . . . .	.....	12,476 5 1	12,476 5 1
Kistna	1,850 0 0	3,802 8 0	5,652 8 0
Nellore	4,203 0 0	5,273 14 2	9,476 14 2
Chingleput	292 0 0	5,959 1 0	6,251 1 0
North Arcot . . . . .	.....	1,459 7 6	1,459 7 6
South Arcot	1,967 10 0	7,091 6 5	9,059 0 5
Tanjore	6,448 12 0	12,110 14 11	18,559 10 11
Trichinopoly	287 0 0	1,306 1 11	1,593 1 11
Madura . . . . .	.....	33,486 11 5	33,486 11 5
Tinnevely	5,121 2 9	24,254 5 2	29,375 7 11
Salem	1,835 9 9	6,857 7 3	8,693 1 0
Coimbatore . . . . .	.....	5,705 4 5	5,705 4 5
Nilgiris	877 0 0	1,571 0 0	2,448 0 0
South Canara	715 12 0	2,811 7 1	3,527 3 1
Travancore State . . . . .	.....	10,940 1 1	10,940 1 1
Pudukkottai State . . . . .	.....	5,300 0 0	5,300 0 0
Total	31,726 10 4	1,74,880 11 11	2,06,607 6 3

APPENDIX No. 4.

STATEMENT OF FODDER DEPÔTS.

District.	Name of depôt.	Date of opening.	Date of closing.	Quantity of fodder supplied.	Receipts.	Cost of fodder.	Railway charge, etc.	Total.	Net cost to fund.
		1897.	1897.	Tons.	R	R	R	R	R
Anantapur.	Tadpatri .	17th May	20th Oct.	386	4,379				
	Guntakal .	10th June	7th Dec.	323	4,021				
	Dharmavaram .	19th June	5th Oct.	64	1,029				
	Anantapur .	28th June	20th Oct.	110	1,742				
	Gooty .	17th Aug.	30th Oct.	71	118				
	Chakralapalli .	16th Aug.	12th Oct.	87	600				
Kurnool.	Dhone .	25th May	25th June	5	63				
	Nandyal .	19th June	25th Aug.	1	19				
Bellary.	Aspari .	26th May	5th Oct.	704	6,587				
	Nancherla .	27th May	25th June	48	794				
	Kuditani .	6th June	20th July	93	1,401				
	Kosgi .	24th June	5th Oct.	205	3,022				
Cuddapah.	Yerraguntla .	26th May	9th June	12	147				
	Muddanur .	7th June	21st Oct.	533	6,610				
	Kondapuram .	8th Aug.	29th Oct.	226	1,061				
	Vayalpad .	21st Aug.	22nd Oct.	32	303				
	Kadiri .	24th Aug.	17th Oct.	57	295				
	Chinna Tippa-samudram.	1st Sept.	8th Oct.	12	213				
	Kurubolu Kota	1st Sept.	8th Oct.	14	142				
	Total .	...	...	2,983	*32,546	62,605	49,395	1,12,000	79,454

* Excludes R3,853, the cost of fodder, issued gratis on tickets issued by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committees.

APPENDIX No. 5.

ABSTRACT OF PERSONS RELIEVED AND SUMS SPENT.

DISTRICT.	HEAD I.		HEAD II.		HEAD III.		HEAD IV.		Miscellaneous.
	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Amount.
	No.	R	No.	R	No.	R	No.	R	R
Ganjam .	2,445	1,615	...	...	29,404	14,388	12,553	43,081	448
Vizagapatam .	879	531	865	341	80,536	29,760	52,761	1,11,448	211
Godavari .	1,875	9,773	...	...	58,540	5,147	1,352	2,782	...
Bellary .	9,685	11,957	...	...	3,727	7,009	32,394	3,30,900	263
Cuddapah .	...	977	...	...	20,799	27,338	14,871	2,70,425	1,338
Anantapur .	1,980	1,624	2	15	5,292	5,509	21,857	1,83,569	104
Kurnool .	4,244	9,759	...	...	1,977	4,522	26,164	1,85,792	542
Malabar .	...	...	...	...	34,094	20,963	...	...	337
Total .	24,108	36,236	867	356	234,369	1,14,636	161,952	11,27,997	3,243

APPENDIX No. 6.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ALLOTMENTS TO THE SEVERAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District.	Heads I and III.	Head IV.	For other purposes.	Total.	Remarks.
	R	R	R	R	
Ganjám . . .	20,000	43,250	...	63,250	
Vizagapatam . . .	30,000	1,13,163'5*	...	1,43,163'5	* R10,000 of this for the Palakonda Agency tract.
Gó dávari . . .	2,000	16,000	...	18,000	
Bellary . . .	48,500	3,20,000	2,000†	3,70,500	† For fodder.
Cuddapah . . .	30,000	2,75,000	1,500‡	3,06,500	‡ For drinking-water wells subsequently ordered to be merged in the allotment under Head IV.
Anantapur . . .	8,000	2,35,000	...	2,43,000	
Kurnool . . .	16,700§	2,05,000	1,000||	2,22,700	§ R700 sent to the Collector for relief of Khandans in Kurnool town, and R1,000 for relief in the Banganapalle State.
Malabar . . .	8,500	...	...	8,500	
TOTAL . . .	1,63,700	12,07,413'5	4,500	13,75,613'5	|| For fodder.
Add allotment under Head II . . .				20,000	
GRAND TOTAL . . .				13,95,613'5	

APPENDIX No. 7.

GANJÁM DISTRICT.

The following are extracts from a report of Mr. H. D. Taylor, Collector of Ganjám :—

In March a general district meeting was convened by me at Berhampur in connection with the Famine Fund, and a local District Committee was elected for the collection of subscriptions and the administration of funds granted by the Executive Committee, Madras, for purposes of relief in this district. Sub-Committees were also formed at Parlákimedi, Chicacole, Russellkonda and Berhampur.

As I found that my current duties prevented me from attending the meetings of the District Committee, and as my own head-quarters were Chatrapur, while the Honorary Secretary lived in Berhampur, thereby causing considerable delay in the disposal of business, I was compelled to resign the office of President of the District Committee. I am not therefore in a position to give any reliable information as to the administration of the relief funds, except under Head IV, for which the distribution was personally entrusted to myself. Full details regarding other heads will be given in the report of the Local Committee.

I may, however, note that in this district a considerably larger amount might judiciously have been expended on the relief of the middle classes, many of whom were so reduced as to have to seek Government relief. The district is, however, very unfavourably circumstanced in the matter of gentlemen who have time and leisure for the administration of relief in rural tracts. Nearly all the members of the various Committees were either Government servants or professional gentlemen whose current duties necessitated their presence at their head-quarters. I also found that taluk officers who were members of the various Sub-Committees had frequently large numbers of deserving persons on their lists, but were unable to do anything towards their relief for want of sufficient funds. The best work in rural tracts was undoubtedly done by the Tekkali Branch of the Chicacole Sub-Committee, under the Revd. J. C. Archibald and Messrs. Perinbam and Venkateswara Charyulu, from whom I also received great assistance in the distribution under Head IV. Elsewhere in the district, except in large towns and their immediate vicinity, relief was not distributed on the scale on which it was really needed.

A total sum of R42,500 was placed at my disposal under Head IV for seed-grain advances, the purchase of ploughing cattle and the relief of the agricultural classes. The original instructions of the Central Committee were to limit advances in the case of the Ganjám district to ryots whose annual kist did not exceed R5. This was found to be inconsistent, chiefly because the district is

mainly composed of Zemindari lands, in which there are no fixed money rentals, the produce being shared between the landlord and the cultivator. There were also many other ryots in Government taluks whose kists exceeded Rs, but who were in an exceedingly wretched plight, large numbers being dependent on Government grain dole for the support of themselves and their families. This state of things is largely due to the fact that the lands of this district are mostly *rain-fed*; in consequence of which the ryots, who would have been able on the same land to obtain a fair dry crop, had, owing to their attempt to secure a wet crop, failed to reap any harvest at all. There is also another class of petty service inamdars called "Samastanam Paiks" both in the Government taluks of Goomsur and in the Uriya Zemindaris of the district. These persons hold these lands on inam tenure for military and other service; the incomes derivable from these lands are even in ordinary years not large, while during the past year their lands yielded barely any crops at all. These Paiks almost invariably cultivate their own lands, and are unable owing to their caste to engage in ordinary manual labour on Government relief works. They are in reality agriculturists, but as they hold their lands for personal service, are incapable of alienating the same, and in consequence are really in a worse position regarding the raising of funds when required than an ordinary Government ryot. I accordingly dealt with this class in the same way as Government ryots for the purpose of relief under Head IV, and the relief so afforded was most highly appreciated by the Paiks who would otherwise have been compelled to leave their lands uncultivated for another year.

A special allotment was also made for the relief of the Savaras of Tekkali and Parlákimcdi taluks.

At the time of distribution I found that the lists of ryots needing relief which had been prepared by Revenue Inspectors, Circle Inspectors and others required very careful check. It was not infrequent to find the names of temples put down and the advance applied for in respect of temple lands, while in one case a Brahmin assessed to an income-tax of Rs20 was entered in the list. I am of opinion that full and sufficient inquiries were made, and that all undeserving cases were eliminated from the lists. In one case I detected a case of personation, in which the sanctioned advance was applied for by another person who gave a false name. He was duly prosecuted for attempting to cheat by personation, and the example had a wholesome effect.

The distribution was made almost entirely by Divisional Officers, members of the Local or Sub-Committees being invited to attend at the time of distribution. In some cases the distribution was made by taluk officers in the presence of Sub-Committee members, while allotments were also made by me direct to the local Committees of Berhampur and Parlákimcdi. Especially hard work was done by Mr. Elphinstone, the Special Principal Assistant Collector at Chatrapur.

At the commencement of the distribution I found that there was a tendency to give totally inadequate grants: thus in some cases grants of 8 annas or Rs1 were made. I immediately issued orders pointing out that the distribution of petty sums like this could not be expected to improve the material condition of the ryot, or to be expended on the object for which it was granted. It was pointed out that the advance was intended not only for the bare seed-grain, but for agricultural expenses and the support of the ryot until he could hope to reap a harvest or obtain an advance on his crop.

Of the distributions made by myself, I found that Rs3 was about the minimum amount which would be capable of producing any real relief, though, as a general rule, no sums less than Rs5 were advanced, while the maximum was fixed at Rs20. The latter sum was only given in a few cases in which the parties had lost their ploughing cattle from disease, or been compelled to sell them owing to stress of famine. As cattle on the whole had fair pasture, and were healthy throughout, there was very little need for relief in the matter of ploughing cattle. The classes of agriculturists relieved did not for the most part possess cattle of their own, and were accustomed to hire the same in each cultivation season. Twelve thousand five hundred and sixteen persons were relieved at a total cost of Rs42,500, or an average of Rs3-6-4 per head. Seven persons were given advances for the purchase of cattle.

A sum of Rs750 was advanced by the Madras Committee for the relief of distressed artisans. Liberal relief had been given by Government during the famine to the weaving classes, so that there was not much need for relief to weavers; at the same time a large sum could have been judiciously expended under this head, only unfortunately the lists were not received in sufficiently detailed form from the various officers at the time when estimates had to be sent in. The persons to whom relief was granted were strictly selected from those who had been in receipt of Government relief, while all weavers who through misappropriation of Government advances had shown themselves to be unworthy of consideration were rigidly excluded from the lists. Such weavers as were granted relief were given a couple of boxes of twist at cost price from the Government depôts, together with a small cash balance to enable them to live until the first batch of cloths could be woven and sold. Those weavers or artisans who had mortgaged or sold their looms and implements were given a sufficient sum to redeem or purchase the same.

Vouchers have not as yet been received in full for the total amount of Rs750, but the recipients of relief have been selected and the allotment distributed talukwar.

The following were the classes of artisans relieved:—

	No.	Amount.
		Rs a. p.
Weavers	46	465 0 0
Goldsmiths	5	89 0 0
Carpenters	6	95 0 0
Blacksmiths	3	63 0 0
Potters	1	8 0 0
Tinkers	3	30 0 0
TOTAL	64	750 0 0

Private Charity.—Heavy expenditure was incurred by the Rajah of Parlákimedi, who employed all comers on works at a fixed wage, irrespective of outturn on his relief works, as many as 10,000 having been employed at one time. The Zemindar of Kallikote and Atagada opened a kitchen at Haradamoli and executed some petty works throughout his estate. The Proprietrix of Urlam opened a kitchen at Devadi. The Zemindar of Chinnakimedi fed about 100 poor daily in the temples and mutts of his estate. Some gentlemen of Aska subscribed to give a meal daily to about 30 deserving caste poor, while Messrs. Arta Viswasara and Vinayaka Sautra, of Radhadevipur Agraharam, near Pattapuram, fed 100 of the most deserving cases for one month after cessation of Government relief.

APPENDIX No. 8.

GANJÁM DISTRICT.

The following is the report of the Ganjám District Committee:—

The Ganjám district, to which this report relates, has a permanent place in the famine zone. Except in the south, *i.e.*, in some portions of the Chicacole taluk—and now in the tract served by the Rushikulya Canal—the district is entirely dependent on rain, timely rain and not more than enough, for its crops. Hence the failure of the rains in 1896, preceded by a somewhat poor outturn of crops, resulted in the severe famine, of which we can now happily speak in the past tense. The chief crop is rice, which needs one good rain before sowing and another before transplantation, and a third while the ear is forming. Next in importance is ragi, which, though a 'dry' crop, needs rain all the more, because it is grown on high ground. Sugarcane is largely grown in the northern half, and red gram and horse gram, castor and til are the chief minor crops. The rice crop was a disastrous failure, the ragi was blighted, and the minor crops were none of them good.

The cold weather of 1896-97 thus opened very dismally. Added to this, the great Pushkaram festival at Rajahmundry attracted large numbers from here, who brought back cholera with them of an unusually virulent type.

The northern half of the district is peopled by Oriyas and the southern by Telugus, roughly speaking. Telugu-Komatis and others who have settled in the northern half for two or more generations have forgotten their own tongue, and have adopted Oriya customs and even names. Many Oriyas settled in the southern half have nearly forgotten their language, and certainly are more at home in Telugu. The "Oriya Villager," a recent season report, describes as "the laziest and most helpless creature in existence." Oriyas are rather more conservative than other sections of the people in the Presidency, and Government have recognized them as a backward class. The Telugu ryot is more enterprising; after sowing his fields he often emigrates to Burmah, returning in two or three months with his purse well filled, in time to cut his own crops. Khonds and Savaras (hill tribes) form the bulk of the emigrants who go to the Assam tea-gardens.

The average ryot here—as distinct from the tenant farmers and occupancy ryots—is as hopelessly in the toils of the money lender as elsewhere in the country. Suits laid in the Courts often disclose what exorbitant rates of interest are sometimes charged—24 and 36 per cent. are nowhere near the mark.

The hill men grow coarse paddy by *podu* cultivation (*kumri*) on patches on the hill sides. Even those crops failed last year.

Weavers are a large class, the silk cloths of Berhampur, the cotton cloths of Narasannapet and Ampolu, and the muslins of Chicacole having more than a merely local reputation. Workers in brass and steel, iron and bell-metal are fairly numerous and skillful. Even the wild Khond makes his own steel from the iron ore which is plentiful in his native hills, and the Khond *tungi* or battle axe is generally of finely tempered steel. Bell-metal cups and utensils are very largely used and manufactured in the district. Other artisans, such as goldsmiths, carpenters, masons, etc., are found, as usual, in every village and town.

1. *The organization of the Local Committees.*—In compliance with the requisition made by the Madras Executive Committee for the formation of a local Committee and Sub-Committees in this district for raising subscriptions towards and administering the moneys of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, a public meeting for the above purpose was held under the auspices of Mr. H. D. Taylor, Acting Collector of Ganjám, on the 6th March 1897 in the Senior Assistant Collector's office at Berhampur. At the meeting, which was attended by the representative men of the district, it was resolved—

(1) that a local Committee be formed, consisting of sixteen members with power to add to their number with a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary and Treasurer;

(2) that the Local Committee consist of the nine gentlemen of the district nominated as members by the Provincial Committee, the four Secretaries of the Sub-Committees to be formed and three other gentlemen elected by the general meeting;

(3) that Sub-Committees be formed at Berhampur, Chicacole, Parlákimedi and Goomsur, each Sub-Committee consisting of twelve members with Chairman and Secretary and Treasurer;

(4) that the local jurisdiction of the Sub-Committees at Berhampur and Goomsur should be co-extensive with that of the Berhampur and Goomsur Taluk Boards, respectively. The local jurisdiction of the Chicacole Sub-Committee was to be the same as that of the Chicacole Taluk Board *minus* the Parlákimedi estate, which would be the jurisdiction of the Parlákimedi Sub-Committee;

(5) that the Secretaries and Chairmen of the Sub-Committees be *ex-officio* members of the Local Committee;

(6) that the Divisional Officers, Berhampur, Chicacole and Russellkonda, and Chairman, Parlákimedi Municipality, be requested to, convene public meetings for the election of Sub-Committees for their respective divisions.

2. The first meeting of the Local Committee was held on Tuesday, the 16th March 1897, in the Senior Assistant Collector's Cutcherry, Berhampur, when Mr. H. D. Taylor, Mr. W. L. Venkataramiah and Mr. B. Chatterjee were elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of the Committee. Subsequently Mr. H. D. Taylor had to resign the Chairmanship, Mr. W. L. Venkataramiah was elected as Chairman, and Mr. D. V. Ramiah Pantulu as Vice-Chairman.

The Berhampur Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. P. Gopala Rao as Chairman and Mr. M. V. Chalapati Rao as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chicacole Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. J. G. D. Partridge as Chairman and Mr. S. Baupirazu Pantulu Garu as Secretary.

The Parlákimedi Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. W. V. Gopala Rao as Chairman and Mr. S. S. Rajaguru as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Goomsur Sub-Committee was formed with Mr. B. Narainamoorthy Pantulu as Chairman and Mr. Upendra Patnaik as Secretary and Treasurer.

From time to time the District and Sub-Committees have been strengthened by the addition of new members.

3. Each of the Sub-Committees, except the Parlákimedi Sub-Committee, following closely on the lines of the State relief organization, divided the tract of the country assigned to it into so many circles, each circle being in charge of certain members who were chosen as being the best qualified to ascertain the needs of their particular circle and distribute the relief sanctioned by the District Committee. It has invariably been found possible to enlist the hearty co-operation of Government officers, and enrol them as members of the Sub-Committees. Thus the double advantage has been achieved of securing the services of responsible and capable men accustomed to gauge the needs of the people, and whose very presence on the Sub-Committee would necessarily keep the Fund's operations in the district in close touch with State relief operations and preclude the possibility of valuable funds being wasted by reason of the two agencies overlapping. The Committee feel that they ought here to place on record their grateful acknowledgment of the unfailing sympathy and cordial assistance received from the Acting Collector, Mr. H. D. Taylor, but for whose valuable advice and suggestions on several occasions the Committee would have found its labours considerably more arduous and perplexing.

4. *The modes of relief administered.*—The operations of the Fund in this district have been directed to all four 'objects' originally indicated by the Central Committee, as well as to the re-habilitation of artisans whom the recent hard times had reduced to the brink of destitution. Under Head I the Committee has supplemented Government relief by supplying clothing to 2,801 persons on relief works and kitchens, etc. The cost of this form of relief was Rs. 1,646-13-11. The stress of famine long before it threatened starvation to the working classes showed itself by a greater disregard than usual of decency in the matter of clothing, and merely in the interests of decency it was found necessary to serve out large quantities of clothing, especially to the women on relief works and kitchens and to the aged and infirm. The clothing thus distributed being, of course, purchased from the looms in the district, this branch of relief also helped the weavers—a considerable class in our district—whose constituents, being mainly such as would easily be crippled by famine, had withheld their patronage during the year. The women of all classes of people in this district, except in the lowest of the low among the Telugus, as a rule, drape their persons more completely (even to covering their heads in public) than in many other parts of the Presidency. Thus the supply of clothing was in response to a distinct demand by the prevailing feeling, as well as in the interests of public decency and morality.

Under this head the "famine babies" were not forgotten. Three dozens of Mellin's food were distributed amongst the Sub-Committees, with directions that they should be used under the personal supervision of the local medical officers for emaciated "famine babies" on relief works and in kitchens. The Committee has yet received no report as to how this has worked.

(b) The second 'object', namely, providing for the maintenance of orphans, was never lost sight of by the Committee, as it was apprehended that the combined effects of the recent famine and the unusually high mortality by cholera and small-pox and fevers would leave a large number of destitute orphans. Happily, the apprehensions of the Committee have been found thus far to be groundless, the solitary case, which has not as yet come to the notice of the Committee, being that of two orphans in Goomsur, for whom the General Deputy Collector of that taluk made application to the Collector, who forwarded the papers to the Committee. Rupees ten was sanctioned as a consolidated payment to a Haddi man who, for that consideration, agreed to adopt the two children, the Deputy Collector undertaking to see by personal inspection that they are well cared for. The administration of relief under this head is beset with serious practical difficulties. When the matter once came up for discussion in a general way, the sense of the Committee was entirely against the policy pursued elsewhere of handing over orphans to Missionary Societies and thus indirectly proselytizing them. There is no undenominational organization, in these parts at least, where orphans could be sent to be reared and educated. No private individuals will, as a rule, undertake the care and bringing up of destitute orphans, unless there is some guarantee of payments therefor being continued for a reasonably long period; and this of course the Committee cannot promise. To make one substantial consolidated payment for each orphan would be not only utterly beyond the means at our disposal, but would be leaving the orphans completely at the mercy of the guardians, without any supervision, since the Committee will soon cease to exist. But happily there has been no occasion for the Committee to face these perils and perplexities.

(c) Object III has been the most important branch of relief with which the Committee has directly had to deal. In the Ganjam district there is scarcely any respectable class or sect, but affects

the *parda nashin* system for its women. The Oriyas, of course, are *Gosha*, excepting the lowest. So are the Muhammadans, of whom we have a fair sprinkling—a despised and impoverished remnant of the former ruler of the land. Even the Telugu-speaking Sudras of the better classes are *Gosha* observers. Thus the conditions of this district are more like those prevailing in the north of India than other parts of the Presidency, and this fact will explain the large outlay under this head of Rs 14,833-13-8 to 32,449 persons. It seems to the Committee that so strong is the sentiment amongst all classes in India, except the lowest, that women should not show themselves in public, and so strong is the aversion to herding with the cooly classes that Government relief as at present conducted by means of kitchens and relief works will never touch the middle classes. Thus it is the middle classes that will suffer most in times of scarcity, and it is especially the women of indigent middle class families that need help, such as the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has addressed itself to supplying under Head III. The Committee feels assured that, as a rule, the doles under this head have been made with discrimination to deserving persons only, and that no deserving person has been wilfully passed over. The distributing members of the Sub-Committees seem to have realised the pressing need for this form of relief, and many of them have displayed a laudable energy and resourcefulness in looking for deserving persons who should be helped, and overcoming prejudices against the acceptance of help of this kind.

(d) The relief under Head IV has been directed to helping to set the ryots on their legs again by grants towards seed-grain, and to setting up artisans on whom the famine had told too heavily. That these forms of relief were imperatively demanded goes without saying, and the Committee feels sure that what the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has been able to do in this direction will contribute materially towards restoring many an unfortunate ryot or artisan to something like what he was before one year of scarcity and another of famine had reduced him to the verge of ruin. The details of the actual distribution of relief amounting to Rs 43,250 under this head, the Committee cannot give, as the allotments were made direct to the Collector and distributed by him either personally, or by his subordinate officers, or through the Sub-Committees, to whom he, from time to time, directly remitted funds. In fact, properly speaking, the Committee cannot be held responsible for moneys spent under this head, since it neither received the moneys nor sanctioned any distributions. The vouchers, however, having been submitted to the Committee, the figures thereof are incorporated in the forms already forwarded, and mere mention is made of the relief under this head and its suitability to the needs of the district.

5. The Committee would here place on record their sense of thankfulness for the abundant harvest of this year which will make men forget the rigors of the recent famine; and would also assure all the subscribers to the Fund in India and abroad that every pain has been taken to guard against waste and malversation of any kind. The Sub-Committees have worked hard, sparing no pains to find out and relieve want. The labours of the Committee, as a merely deliberative body, have, of course, been lighter, though the responsibility has been heavier. But the members of the Committee feel they have done their bare duty to the suffering poor around them by undertaking the administration of the Fund in the district, and neither expect nor deserve any commendation therefor.

In conclusion the Committee feel that they ought also to place on record the sense of the deep debt of gratitude the people of this land have been laid under to the benevolent subscribers to the Fund in India and chiefly abroad—whose liberality and forethought have made it possible for thousands of sufferers in the famine districts to escape starvation and want.

We feel assured that the people of the land will not easily forget the spirit and manner in which kind hearts in England and America responded to the call for help, and we feel also that the large-hearted benevolence displayed towards the poor famine-stricken people of India cannot fail to draw closer in bonds of fellowship the East and West.

APPENDIX No. 9.

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

The following report has been received from Mr. E. B. Elwin, Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, on the relief in Palkonda Agency:—

Palkonda Agency extends along the north of Palkonda taluk on the border between Vizagapatam and Ganjam districts. Its area is about 40 square miles, and consists of hills covered with jungle intersected by narrow valleys. Paddy is grown in these villages where any level ground is found, and is watered by petty hill streams, which dry up very soon after the rains are over. On the slopes of the hills are grown ragi, cumbu, cholam, tsamai, vuda, korra and grams. The dry crop grains are eaten by the people, but the paddy is all given over to Sowcars for export, the Sowcars advancing loans on the crop. In addition to these crops, there is the natural forest produce, especially mangoes and tamarinds, which form the chief food of the people in their season, and which they also take to Palkonda and other markets for sale. It may be said that the people live on their dry crops and forest produce, while they sell their paddy and surplus forest produce to obtain loans and luxuries.

The population of these hills was 23,648 in 1891. It consists chiefly of Jats, Savaras, Paidis and Sondis, the major portion being Jats. The Jats cultivate the valleys and slopes, while Savaras prefer the hills and practise *podu* cultivation. Most of the hills have been much damaged by this wasteful practice, and forest reserves have lately been formed to preserve the remaining forest from destruction. The Paidis are a low caste, and weave coarse cloths amongst other occupations. The Sondis chiefly distil and sell arrack, which is very extensively drunk on all special occasions, such as births, marriages, deaths and religious festivals. The general population is very poor, their poverty being chiefly caused by disproportionate expenditure on marriages and similar occasions, for which they obtain large loans from Sowcars. The Savaras are addicted to emigration in case of bad seasons

or epidemics of cholera and small-pox, but they usually return as soon as the danger has gone. Apart from this habit, there is no custom of emigration among the hill people.

During the two or three years preceding 1896-97 the usual crops yielded well, but in 1895-96 mangoes and tamarinds failed to a large extent. In 1896-97 all crops failed entirely, and mangoes and tamarinds again failed entirely owing to a very poor south-west monsoon and the utter failure of the north-east. The people very soon used up their grain and consumed their seed-grain which they had been keeping for the next crop. The usual hill produce having also failed for two successive years, the people were reduced to living on leaves and roots.

It was at this stage, when people were living on leaves and roots and the pith of sago palms and had consumed their seed-grain, that the Charitable Relief Fund stepped in and placed Rs10,000 at the Collector's disposal for distribution to the hill people, in order that they might buy seed-grain and sow their crops this year. The people were in utter despair last June, as their Sowcars refused further loans, and they knew not where to turn. The rains began early in these hills, but were of little use in the absence of seed. The distribution of the relief granted in June and July entirely changed the aspect of affairs, and, together with the relief given by Government, instilled fresh hope in the minds of all. I distributed most of the money on the 27th June at Sitampeta, the most central place in the hills, and the Tahsildar distributed the remaining small amount to those who had not come when I was present. At my request the Collector allowed me to spend Rs300 on cloths, which were distributed chiefly to those in receipt of Government relief at the kitchen and in their own villages. I found Rs9,375-14-0 sufficient to meet all needs for seed-grain. Adding the Rs300 for cloths, there was a total expenditure of Rs9,675-14-0. The rest, Rs24-2-0, was remitted into the treasury to the credit of the District Committee of the Charitable Relief Fund under the Collector's instructions.

The relief given by Government consisted of a kitchen at Sitampeta and of village relief distributed at two centres, *viz.*, Donuvayi and Kadagandi. The average number relieved daily at Sitampeta was 77, and the kitchen was open for one month and twenty-eight days. Circle relief was distributed for one month and ten days to 106 and 84 persons, respectively, at Donuvayi and Kadagandi. In addition to this famine relief, ordinary work was carried out by a special grant of Rs1,000 on the Sitampeta-Gumada road for two-and-a-half months. The relief given by the Charitable Fund fitted in with and supplemented that given by Government, and between the two all cases of distress were met. This was made all the easier by the fact that all forms of relief were administered and supervised by the same Agency officers, *viz.*, the Tahsildar and myself. The Tahsildar, M. R. Ry. B. V. Ramanarsu Pantulu Garu, is accustomed to the hills and has a wide experience of them. Hence he was of great use to me in distributing relief.

It is reported that the different measures of relief have been highly successful. The Tahsildar's inquiries show that "the money distributed for buying seed-grain has not been misused, but spent for the legitimate purpose in most cases." The crops are now in excellent condition, and prospects as bright as they can be. There is no doubt that the distribution of money for the purchase of seed-grain from the Charitable Relief Fund's grant was the most successful and suitable form of relief possible in these hills. The absence of roads, inaccessibility of the country and ignorance of the people made it impossible for ordinary forms of Government relief to reach more than a very small part of the population, but all alike were willing to come from the remotest villages to obtain means for replenishing their stock of seed-grain.

APPENDIX No. 10.

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

The following is from the report of the Vizagapatam District Committee :—

Vizagapatam district consists of 9 towns and 2,659 villages, covering an area of 4,619 square miles, excluding the Agency. A chain of the Eastern Ghâts runs through the district from north-east to south-west, dividing it into two unequal portions. This range forms the chief watershed of the country. Numerous streams flow from the range, some towards the east direct to the sea, and others towards the west into the river Gôdâvari. Almost all of them dry up soon after the rains are over: The plains of the district watered by these streams yield such wet crops as rice and sugarcane, and dry crops as indigo, cotton, ragi, cumbu, korra and gingelly. Almost all the wet and dry produce is consumed by the people of the district, with the exception of cotton, indigo, sugarcane and gingelly, which are mostly exported. The population of the district, excluding that of the Agency, was 1,943,211 according to the census taken in 1891. Ninety-seven per cent. of the total population belong to the cultivating classes, such as Kapûs, shepherds, Ayyarakas, Velamas, Gavaras, Reddis, etc. The lower classes, which consist of Yatas, Dasaries, Malas, Madigas, Paidis and Rellies, live by daily labour. The sowcars who advance loans on the crops to the cultivators take most of the produce, leaving a portion just sufficient for the cultivators' maintenance. Many of the cultivators of this district are involved in debt on account of occasional failure of crops. During the years preceding 1896-97 a considerable portion of the produce of the ryot thus passed into the sowcars' possession. Thus, when the famine came, there was a large accumulation of produce in the sowcars' warehouses on the one hand, and considerable deprivation of the resources of the ryot on the other. During the two years preceding 1896-97 almost all the crops yielded well, but in 1895-96 the principal crop, namely, paddy, which is used by almost all the people in the district, was only fairly satisfactory. In 1896-97 all crops failed entirely for want of rains. The people very soon consumed their little stock of grain and even the seed-grain which they had intended for the next crop. The failure of crops in many districts, as well as in the Agency of the district, caused a considerable falling off in commerce. There was thus plenty of room for the operation of the Charitable Relief Fund in this district, and on receipt of the printed circular letter dated the 13th February last from the Executive Committee of the Fund at Madras, Mr. W. O. Horne, the Collector of the district, issued notices to all officials

and the wealthy public with a request to attend a meeting on 9th March 1897. A public meeting was held on that date, and the object of the meeting was fully explained by the Collector to the public. A subscription list was opened and circulated among the members that were present then, and a sum of Rs. 2,390 was subscribed on the spot. This list was headed with a liberal subscription of Rs. 1,000 by M. R. Ry. Perla Narayana Chetti Garu of Vizianagram. On the whole a sum of Rs. 686 (up to 30th November 1897) was collected in this district under subscriptions. The collections, on the whole, have been very fair. Of the persons that were present at the meeting, a District Executive Committee was formed with Mr. E. C. Rawson, the District Judge, as Chairman, to transact the business connected with the administration of the Fund. At a meeting held on 17th March 1897, M. R. Ry. B. V. Jogayye Naidu Garu, Sheristadar of the district, was elected Honorary Secretary, and M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur R. Suriarow Naidu Garu, Huzur Treasury Deputy Collector, Honorary Treasurer. It was resolved at the meeting to request the four Divisional Officers of the district to co-operate with the District Committee, and to send a printed circular letter in Telugu and English to all well-to-do people in the district appealing for aid for their suffering fellow-countrymen. The District Committee undertook the task of addressing letters to the charitable public, forming Sub-Committees, obtaining funds from Madras, furnishing the Sub-Committees with the funds required, and issuing the necessary instructions, from time to time, for the prompt distribution of the funds. Twelve Sub-Committees were started. The table annexed hereunder shows the different centres of the Sub-Committees, the dates on which they were started, the number of circles into which each centre was divided, and the number of members in charge of different circles:—

No.	Name of Sub-Committee.	Date of formation of the Sub-Committee.	Number of Circles under each Sub-Committee.	Number of members in charge of Circles.	REMARKS.
1	Saluru	27th Mar. 1897	6	9	
2	Anakapalli	31st Mar. 1897	10	27	
3	Bobbili	Do.	12	2	
4	Yellamanchilli	1st Apl. 1897	5	10	
5	Parvatipuram	Do.	5	10	
6	Narasipatam	4th Apl. 1897	4	10	
7	Vizagapatam town	5th Apl. 1897	8 wards.	12	
8	Chodavaram	Do.	23 circles.	23	
9	Vizianagram	7th Apl. 1897	6 wards.	12	
10	Bimlipatam	13th Apl. 1897	5 circles.	5	
11	Huzur Deputy Collector's Division	14th Apl. 1897	8	20	
12	Razam	16th July 1897	8	8	

As proposed by the Collector, Mr. E. B. Elvin, the Principal Assistant Collector, was asked to undertake the work of distribution at Cheepurupalli and Gajapatinagram, and Mr. J. H. Tomlinson, Agent to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., to do the same at Palkonda, as it was not found practicable to establish Sub-Committees in these places. They kindly undertook the work on 23rd July 1897 and on 27th July 1897, respectively. Thus the district was divided into 14 charges, of which 12, as noted in the tabular statement, were under Sub-Committees, and the rest under the personal supervision of the two gentlemen named above. By means of relief works and kitchens started by Government in the district, the cooly class of persons such as Kapus, shepherds and Koppala Velamas, who are accustomed to outdoor work, and who have no great scruples of caste, were maintained. The other classes of persons who were not willing to go to relief works and kitchens, and who were not accustomed to outdoor work, have been chiefly aided by the Charitable Fund. The aid given by Government to cultivators by means of relief works was supplemented by payments from the Charitable Fund under head IV. The relief given by Government has fitted in well with that given by the Fund, and they were not allowed to overlap each other. An amount of Rs. 531 was expended under head I for the purchase of cloths given to the persons at the Government kitchen who were in need of them. The distribution of cloths was made after careful enquiries by the officers in charge of the kitchens. The distribution was in many cases conducted by the Huzur Deputy Collector, by the Tahsildars and by the Deputy Tahsildars. A small sum of Rs. 54-7-7 was spent at the beginning under head II by the Sub-Committees at Chodavaram and Parvatipuram in giving money and cloths. Subsequent to the despatch of the October accounts, a sum of Rs. 256-12-4 was reported to have been spent by the Parvatipuram Sub-Committee among 593 orphans. A large portion of the funds allotted to this district was spent under head III in the distribution of money doles for food and clothing by almost all the Sub-Committees. The Sub-Committees at Vizianagram, Salur and Narsipatam distributed rice doles and cooked-food doles among the deserving poor who were not willing to go to Government kitchens. The distribution was made by the members in charge of each circle after careful enquiry. Money doles were distributed by the members in charge of each circle once a fortnight in some places and once a week in other places. Cooked-food doles were given only by the Sub-Committee at Narsipatam. The cloths were distributed by the Sub-Committees after making careful enquiries as to their wants, and money too was given to some who were in need of cloths. The expenditure under this head helped a great deal those who did not resort to Government relief. The Sub-Committees at Salur, Bobbili, Palkonda and Parvatipuram found the amount allotted under this head insufficient, and accordingly utilized a surplus under head IV for that purpose. The total amount spent on clothing under heads I and III out of the allotment of Rs. 30,000 was Rs. 1,586, which relieved 2,298 persons, who were in bad need of raiment. The amount spent under money doles, etc., under head III was Rs. 26,033 devoted to relieving 74,684 persons from starvation. The amount of Rs. 1,03,000 allotted under head IV was utilized in affording cultivators pecuniary aid in the purchase of cattle and seed-grain, for wages to labourers, and for the maintenance of the cultivators and their families. Rs. 718-6-0 under this head were also spent in providing habitations to 258 families, whose houses had been burnt down and who were too poor to rebuild them.

A small sum of R142-12-0 was distributed by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee at Razam among 71 weavers of that place to enable them to start in life afresh. These weavers were reported to have been in such distress as to have been driven to the last resource of selling even the implements of their trade. On the whole, the aid given to the cultivating classes from the Charitable Relief Fund met with most success. The amount of R95,334 spent under this head, helped 49,473 cultivators in starting and continuing agricultural operations which would have been entirely given up but for the timely assistance afforded. Every possible effort was made to extend relief to the remotest corners of the district, so that no distressed ryots should be lost sight of. The special services of the undermentioned gentlemen are worthy of mention :—

(1) M.R.Ry. Dewan Bahadur R. Dharmarow Naidu Garu, who undertook the work of supervising the various Sub-Committees and of giving instructions for the proper utilization and distribution of the Charitable Fund.

(2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. Suriarow Naidu Garu, Treasury Deputy Collector, who spared no pains in rendering valuable service as Honorary Treasurer of the District Committee.

(3) M.R.Ry. P. Audinarayaniah Garu, District Munsif of Parvatipuram, and the President of the Local Sub-Committee, and M.R.Ry. B. Suryanarayana Sastri Garu, High Court Vakil and Chairman of the Vizagapatam Town Sub-Committee, who spent nothing on contingencies out of the amount placed at their disposal, but have borne the same out of their own pockets, so that the whole allotment should reach the poor direct.

(4) Thanks are due to all the members of the District and Sub-Committees for the gratuitous services rendered by them to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee.

It is gratifying to note that there was only one instance in which any malversation on the part of persons engaged in distributing relief came to notice. The District Committee has not received a single complaint of any unfairness in the way in which the money has been distributed, or, except in the solitary instance just referred to, of peculation. Every one connected with the Fund has given his services gratuitously, and the only portion of the allotment that has not been spent directly in relieving distress has been a sum of R97-0-7 spent in absolutely necessary contingencies, such as postage, printing, telegrams, etc. Acknowledgment has to be made of the great assistance the Committee has received from all the Revenue officials, from the Collector downwards. They have spared no pains to assist the Committee in every possible way, and there has been an entire absence of any friction. The special thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. B. V. Jogayya Naidu, Sheristadar of the District Court, the Honorary Secretary, on whose shoulders the greater part of the administration of the Fund has been thrown, and to whom it is principally due that the work of charitable relief in this district has been so successful.

APPENDIX No. II.

GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT.

The following interesting extracts are taken from the report of Mr. V. A. Brodie, Collector of Gódávári, on the relief of the Koyas, or Hillmen of the Agency tracts :—

* * * * *

The first taluk that showed signs of distress was Bhadrachalam. As already stated, the kondajonna crop, the principal crop of the Koya, almost totally failed. In the riverside villages, in many of which there was a very good crop of manchijonna, the ryots did not open their cholam pats, partly in expectation of a rise in prices, and partly from a feeling of panic that we were only at the beginning of a cycle of bad years. The price of cholam in the Bhadrachalam taluk in the months of December and January was 12 and 13 seers, respectively, per rupee, and as the Koya generally has no property beyond his podu and is a thrifless being who ever lives on credit when available, when his podu fails and prices rise high, he is bound to suffer; for, at such times, in place of further advances, his usual bankers demand repayment of their previous loans. In ordinary seasons he is, however, little depressed by these difficulties, as he can fall back on the forest produce to which he is accustomed. He finds an agreeable food in the ippa flower, the tuniki fruit and the kernels of the tamarind nut and the mango stone, a wholesome vegetable in the leaves of the boddikura and other plants, and an especially nutritious and favourite diet in the pith of the jilugu palm (bastard sago) and the flowers of the bamboo. The jilugu and the palmyra palms supply him with meat and drink in the shape of toddy, and from the ippa flower he distils a potent spirit. Food also is obtainable from certain roots. Owing to his special ill-luck in the current year, however, these resources proved much more scanty than usual and, of course, he had no store remaining from the previous year which had been one of exceptional abundance, as he takes no thought for the morrow and limits his efforts to procuring sufficient for his immediate needs. Of all the above, the tuniki fruit alone was an abundant crop, but although it can be dried, it will not in this shape keep long. Still from January to May, it was of invaluable assistance to him. The tamarind crop was a poor one, varying from 4 annas to 8 annas, and the ippa crop was worse. A mango was hardly to be found. In the whole of the Bhadrachalam taluk, the Forest Sub-divisional officer only saw one with fruit on it and could hear only of one other. On no mango tree in the Agency did I see a vestige of fruit, and not one was brought to the markets at Chodavaram, Devipatnam and Rekapalli on the days I visited them in April. The bamboos in great part of the Agency had flowered and died the year before, and none flowered anywhere in 1897. The jack is not a common tree, but its crop, too, was of the scantiest; whilst the ground was so hard and parched that it was not possible to dig up roots when found; but until the rains set in, it was hopeless almost to look for them as the leaves springing from them were dead themselves and the ground covered with dead leaves fallen from the trees. The jilugu remained, but it occurs only in favoured localities out of Rampa, and to destroy it for its sago means its loss as a toddy-producer, so that it is cut only as a last resource. Even the palmyra yielded less toddy than usual and ceased to

yield sooner than usual. It is also a rare tree in Bhadrachalam, except in the Sebari valley and the Godavari valley east of Bhadrachalam.

To work of any kind that he is not used to, the Koya is averse, and beyond his podu cultivation and scanty rice cultivation, the only work he is accustomed to is timber-cutting. At this he is a deft hand and many found employment in cutting and carting timber for merchants in Bastar and the neighbourhood of the Godavari and Sebari rivers from the month of November onwards; but this trade was so overdone that the prices of bamboos and timber fell very heavily at Rajahmundry—the great emporium of the timber trade of the district—so that towards the end of the season most merchants having lost money were chary of making advances for this purpose.

Sales of grain at reduced prices.—The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee having placed Rs. 2,000 at my disposal for the relief of the Koyas of Bhadrachalam, I considered the best means of relief would be to sell staple food-grains at normal prices, as that would tend to keep down prices in the market and at the same time enable the Koya to pull on with what little money he had as long as possible without being a burden to the State. Such a measure was especially necessary in a tract like Bhadrachalam, where trade competition is *nil* and importation of grain other than rice from Rajahmundry unknown. I therefore ordered the opening of cheap grain shops at convenient centres in the Bhadrachalam taluk, and, as the sum of Rs. 2,000 would go a very little way in getting the requisite supplies, made Government financier, advancing the necessary funds for the outlay from the allotment of Rs. 10,000 placed at my disposal in the beginning. The sale proceeds went to Government and the loss was debited to the allotment of the Charitable Relief Fund. In the months of July and August there was a great run on these grain depôts, and the loss sustained, together with the conveyance charges, not only exhausted the allotment of Rs. 2,000, but also a further allotment of Rs. 3,000, which the Committee ultimately allowed me on my representation. I knew that the closure of these grain depôts would mean serious hardship and extra cost to Government, for there was almost no grain for sale elsewhere in the taluk, and in the flood season to leave the supply to depend on imports by private individuals was practically to leave the taluk without grain at all. Only two courses were open: either to import grain and in place of selling it, utilize it for the distribution of grain doles in place of money doles, or to continue the depôt system, which differed little directly from the other, as nine-tenths of the grain at least was purchased by the recipients of gratuitous relief in the shape of money doles, and had the indirect advantages of exercising a salutary influence on prices in the open market, and of enabling Koyas and others to get advances in money that kept them off the gratuitous relief list, when those merchants, who made them, neither would nor could advance grain. Had I stopped importing grain altogether, and continued money doles, the price of cholam in Bhadrachalam would have risen at once to 6 or 7 seers per rupee, and twice as much and more would have had to be paid away in doles to existing recipients of relief, whilst many more would have had to be taken on to the list in consequence of the rise in prices. Had I imported grain and stopped money doles, much inconvenience would have been caused to every one, and probably more would have had to be taken on to the relief list, for prices in the open grain market, such as it was, would certainly have risen. In these circumstances on 5th August 1897, I asked Government to allow me to carry on the depôts at its expense in the event of the Charitable Fund Committee refusing my application for a further advance of Rs. 5,000, as it seemed very likely it would and, pending a reply, continued them. The Government order rejecting my proposal as being opposed to the provisions of the Famine Code, reached me only on 3rd October 1897, and meanwhile the sales had been proceeded with at Government expense, and were finally stopped on 10th October 1897. On a further report of the circumstances, Government was pleased to approve of my action in continuing the sales at the depôts at Government expense. On a final audit of the accounts of Government and the Charitable Relief Fund by the Special Deputy Tahsildar, M. R. Ry. A. Appa Rao Pantulu, a sum of Rs. 2,846-4-11 has been found to have been spent in connection with the grain depôts of the Bhadrachalam taluk in excess of the allotment sanctioned by the Charitable Relief Fund.

Again, grain was sold at reduced rates in the Chodavaram market during the month of August and the loss sustained by the sales is Rs. 1-8-6.

The cost to Government on account of the sales at reduced prices is, therefore, Rs. 2,846-4-11 plus Rs. 1-8-6, which comes to Rs. 2,927-13-5 in all.

* * * * *

Loans.—The Special Assistant Agent having reported that loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act XII of 1884 for the purchase of seed-grain and for subsistence were urgently required to be given to save Koya cultivators in the Polavaram division, I permitted him to accept the applications and grant loans wherever necessary in anticipation of sanction, and applied to the Board for the necessary sanction; but before receipt of the Board's orders, a sum of Rs. 10,000 having been placed at my disposal by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee for advances to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till the next harvest, which were not, however, recoverable, I directed that the amounts already disbursed, amounting to Rs. 1,074-15-9, which were advanced in grain, should be considered free gifts of the Indian Charitable Fund and that the same should be met from the above allotment of Rs. 10,000. No loans have, therefore, been disbursed in this district for purposes connected with the relief of distress, and I am glad to be rid of the unpleasant duty of recovering loans from Koyas. Loans to them mean practically free gifts, as to find them with the means of repaying in their hands would not be easy, and it would be hopeless to expect them to save in order to repay; for the burden of an unpaid debt sits lightly on their consciences.

The Charitable Relief Fund has allotted in all Rs. 18,000 for relief in the Bhadrachalam taluk of this district, and the contributions to the Fund from this district amounted to nearly Rs. 17,000. It was utilized for the following measures of relief:—

1. Sales of grain at reduced prices.
2. Distribution of cloths.
3. Relief to Koya cultivators for the purchase of seed-grain and cattle.
4. Advances (not recoverable) of grain to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till harvest.

Sales of grain at reduced prices.—The sales of grain at reduced prices were made at eight centres, viz. :—

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Dummagudem, | (4) Kachavaram, | (7) Jeediguppa, |
| (2) Bhadrachalam, | (5) Pedamattapalli, | (8) Chintur, |
| (3) Kunavaram, | (6) Gollagudem, | |

which commanded in all 236 villages with a population of 23,861. The Pedamattapalli and Kunavaram depôts were started on the 28th April, while the others were started in the first week of May. By far the heaviest sales took place at Dummagudem and Kunavaram depôts. The classes of people to whom the relief was extended were (1) Koyas, (2) Reddis, (3) Malas, (4) Madigas and (5) Christians. On one occasion when the supply of grain with the local petty merchants at Bhadrachalam ran out and prices went up to 8 seers of cholam per rupee, there was a clamour from all classes of people for admission to this relief, and accordingly, till a new supply arrived, all classes were permitted to buy without restriction. The depôt sales at Dummagudem were conducted in the beginning by the Rev. John Cain of the Church Mission and latterly by the Revenue Inspector from the Yernagudem taluk, Ch. V. Subrahmanyam, in addition to his other duties of inspecting villages and assisting the Probationary Deputy Collector in the distribution of grain and money doles. His services are highly spoken of by the Probationary Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar and the Special Assistant Agent. At Bhadrachalam, the depôt sales were conducted under the supervision of one Mr. Ramaswami Naidu, a wealthy proprietor of the place. At Kunavaram the office establishment of Mr. Ward conducted the depôt transactions, and in other places the village officers were made to look after this work. A special remuneration of R 2 to 4 was granted to the village officers so employed for their services in connection with the depôts, and no doubt they richly deserved it, as the work done was considerable and well done. These depôts are admitted by all to have proved a great boon at a time when prices were rising very high, and it is generally thought prices would have risen higher still than they did but for their being started. The depôts have benefited not only the people but also Government as it was a gainer by their existence in that the wages and money doles of relief-workers and recipients of gratuitous relief were calculated on a market price of 16 seers per rupee (depôt price), as against an open market price of sometimes 8 to 10 seers per rupee, such persons being freely permitted to buy at the depôts. The whole of the allotment of R5,000, sanctioned by the Charitable Fund for the purpose, was spent in the shape of loss sustained at the depôts, and Government charged itself with the excess loss and the contingent expenditure to the extent of R2,927-13-5.

Distribution of Cloths.—A sum of R233-4-6 has been spent by the Charitable Fund for the purpose, but it was not in my opinion a success, as funds were very insufficient and all the needy could not be relieved. There is no certainty, too, that those who received cloths were those most in need of them, for the Koya is ceasing to be the simple unsophisticated individual every one takes him for, and can play a trick or two though often clumsily, and the women especially did not hesitate to appear almost naked in order to excite pity, and some received cloths more than once. The Panchamas are even more shameless deceivers in this respect. The cloths were distributed by Messrs. Cain and Woodhouse at Dummagudem and by Messrs. Coleridge and Ward at Kunavaram.

Relief for the purchase of seed-grain and cattle.

A sum of R1,769-12-0 was disbursed in all to 1,352 Koya cultivators and R12 to one individual for the purchase of cattle.

Advances to needy Koya cultivators to carry them on till harvest.

The Hon'ble Mr. Crole who visited Bhadrachalam as President of the Madras Branch of the Charitable Relief Fund on the 25th August was greatly struck with the poor and depressed condition of the Koyas and immediately obtained an allotment of R10,000 for petty grain advances to those of them who were cultivators. The expenditure up to the end of October was R5,839-10-9 in Bhadrachalam taluk and R1,074-15-9 in Polavaram division. A second consignment of grain which was sent up by the 20th of October has also reached Kunavaram and Bhadrachalam and been disbursed. The cost of the second consignment was R1,925-5-10. A third and last consignment of grain, costing R700, was sent up on the 20th ultimo, and has now reached its destination. All has been disbursed at Woddigudem and Kunavaram by Mr. Ward—though not all removed—except a few bags which are over and above his requirements. I have instructed him to distribute the contents of these amongst the most needy generally and trust the Committee will approve this course. The Tahsildar has been instructed to follow the same course with the small balance I understand he has left over. The total expenditure under this head has, therefore, been R9,540-0-4 to date. These advances reduced the Government famine expenditure by reducing the numbers on the gratuitous relief list on a considerable scale. At the same time it was somewhat 'anomalous for Government to be giving gratuitous relief to men with considerable areas under what promise to be excellent crops, which is what it was doing in the case of many Koyas.

Private Charity.

A sum of R162 was subscribed at Dummagudem for relief locally and I at first utilized the same for the test relief works, but subsequently on receipt of the allotment of R10,000, I ordered the amount to be spent for the maintenance of the grain depôts in addition to the allotment of R5,000 sanctioned by the Charitable Fund for the purpose. The Rev. John Cain, Miss Cain and the other ladies of the Dummagudem C. M. S. Mission have worked indefatigably in dispensing charity and deserve public recognition of their labours. The actual figures of their expenditure are unfortunately not to hand, but not less than R10,000 have been so spent for different charitable purposes—a large portion of the amount having been spent before Government and the Charitable Fund intervened. Their benevolence, it is reported, comprised the following objects of relief :—

- (a) Medical aid.
- (b) Gifts of cloths.

- (c) Gifts of food-grain.
- (d) Gifts of seed-grain.
- (e) Construction of petty works and repairs such as digging wells, repairing tank bunds, etc.
- (f) Purchases of cloths from weavers and supply of yarn to others.
- (g) "Famine schools" where "ambali" was given to the children for drink.
- (h) Distribution of "ambali" to relief-workers at midday.
- (i) Aid to hire bullocks.
- (j) Money aid.

The assistance and advice given by Rev. Mr. Cain in the conduct of Government and charitable relief operations were also invaluable, and the thanks of Government are due to him and the ladies of the Mission for their indefatigable endeavours to assist the poor. In matters of policy and as to what measures were necessary, Mr. Cain and myself have by no means always agreed, but I readily admit his sincerity in advocating more liberal expenditure than I thought or was advised by others to be necessary, and my own obligations to him for the assistance he was always ready to render to myself and the Probationary Deputy Collector, frequently, I fear, at much personal inconvenience.

In Cocanada town some leading gentlemen even so early as September 1896 raised a fund of Rs. 2,000, and laid in a stock of rice for sale to the poor at cheap rates. The relief was premature, and the money did not last long, but the charity was laudable all the same. In May, June and July there was considerable relief given by the charitable merchants of the place to the Vizagapatam paupers, who gathered in the streets to a number of about 2,000 at one time. Systematic and punctual meals were given. Indeed, I hear, the meals given were sumptuous. The Prince of Wales' choultry in the town also fed a large number daily. The principal private charity which I must bring to the notice of Government was, however, that of M. R. Ry. Kovvuri Basivireddi, a wealthy merchant of Cocanada, who, with princely liberality, maintained three big choultries at Samalkot, Annavaram and Tuni, three important stations on the great northern trunk road and also on the railway line. He has opened his choultry, feeding hundreds of people every day at all hours till agricultural operations were fully started and field labour became available for all that live by it, at Samalkot, in a pucca building which cost him about Rs. 20,000, and he is, I hear, going to make a similar provision to his Tuni choultry. His local charities were also considerable and he has well earned the thanks of Government for the assistance he so freely and liberally rendered to those in distress. The Temperance Association of Chintalapudi also did its best to relieve local distress, though on a small scale. Many ryots in the delta too—especially in the Ramachandrapuram taluk—displayed much liberality to the pauper-seekers for work that flocked to it, whereby those who could not find employment were always able to find a meal.

APPENDIX No. 12.

LETTERS FROM THE REV. J. CAIN AND MR. H. H. WARD.

The following letters to the Madras Committee from the Rev. John Cain and Mr. H. H. Ward on the condition of the Gódvári hillmen contain much interesting information on the same subject:—

DUMMAGUDEN, 18th March.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th instant. It is impossible for me to give an account of the condition of the Kois in the whole of this taluk, as there is a considerable part of it that we have not visited this year in consequence of the lack of drinking water. I can answer for the condition of most of the villages around here, and will send this letter on to Mr. Ward, asking him to add his remarks, as he lives at the other end of the taluk, and is well acquainted with the villages there.

Most of the Kois live in villages away from the banks of the Gódvári, and the soil of the land which they cultivate is light and of little depth, so that failure of rain is most disastrous to them. Those villages on the banks of the Sebari and Gódvári which had a seasonable day's rain in October or November have had a fair cholum crop. The villages whose crops were the greatest failure principally lie to the north and east of Dummagudem. The early, that is the kondajonna, crop was not more than a four-anna crop, and the later jonna crop was a total failure in the inland villages. Twelve miles farther up the river this latter crop was a splendid one. They had the rain which so utterly failed here, and the soil of those villages is dark black cotton soil, not a thin soil on the top of limestone. There is now before me a list of 20 villages within 9 miles of us, in none of which was there enough crop to "put a threshing floor" for the cholum. This month and April are the months in which the Kois enjoy themselves and have most of their marriages; this year up to the present time there has only been one in all these villages and this would not have taken place if a friendly merchant in Dummagudem had not supplied the grain for the feast. At this season, the Kois, being a good-natured improvident lot of people, usually sell cholum on their floors at from 30—40 seers for the rupee; this year, there is none to be had in any Koi village around here and the price in the Dummagudem bazaar is 11 seers to the rupee (and there is not very much of it, as the ryots in the villages where the crop has been fair, refuse to sell and are storing it away for fear of another famine). Ragi is being imported from Rajahmundry to Bhadrachalam and being carted on here, so the price is 12 seers to the rupee (and this is not the staple food of the taluk).

In the months, December, January and February the Kois dug up all kinds of roots to eke out the supplies of grain, but this supply is quite exhausted, and the fruits of the Embryopteris glutinifera are being used, but these are not very sustaining. The gum of some of the Acacias and the Spondias mangifera was obtainable a few weeks ago, but the Kois complained that gum was more satisfying

than nourishing, and that their digestive organs suffered from the use of this new kind of diet. They always look forward to the crop of the flowers of the *Bassia latifolia*, but there does not seem to be more than half the usual crop of these flowers, and, strange to say, the flying foxes in some villages are levying contributions from these trees. The kernels of the tamarind stones are now being eaten. But none of the above are sufficient of themselves to keep up the strength of hard-working cultivators, and the general health of the people is suffering.

All the Kois are cultivators; their villages are small; and the headman of each village apportions out the land and is responsible to Government or the Zemindar for the rent. In most instances the headman is the best off man in the village and takes care to keep so.

The reasons why the Kois refused to go to the test-relief works are as follows:—

(1) The pay is very small, and many of them were imbued with the idea that the Government intended to get a full day's work out of them for a third of the usual rate of pay. The Kois are a very suspicious folk.

(2) Many of them get at this time of the year a few days' work every week in Dummagudem and other villages on the banks of the river. A man told me this morning that he had earned 12 annas in three days in Dummagudem and that at the relief camp it would have taken him eight days to earn the same, and that at a distance of 10 miles from home.

(3) A dislike of breaking up their homes, leaving their cattle, etc., behind them, and going to a style of work, the like of which neither they nor their forefathers had ever seen.

(4) A kind of fatalistic notion that some way or other something will turn up nearer their homes by which they may live. The reply of one of the headmen to the Special Assistant Agent illustrates their recklessness. "Well, suppose you do not get food you must die," was the remark of the Special Assistant Agent. "Well, if we die we will throw out our corpses and the kites and the vultures will come and eat them" was the answer.

There can be no harvest for six months, and it is utterly impossible for all around here to live and carry on their usual cultivation. What would have been the best way, if it had been feasible, would have been some small improvements round or near each village, or in the forest near. But as most of the villages are on zemindari land, I do not see how the Government could have undertaken it. Our old friend Major-General Haig, R.E., hearing in November-December of the failure of the crops around, set to work to gather subscriptions amongst his friends, and has sent us over Rs. 4,000. (He raised most of this before the Mansion House Fund was started). With this we have helped some to repair their own tanks, clear out three wells, given yarn to poor weavers, distributed grain to the utterly destitute. Our policy is that of the Relief Fund, *viz.*, to help the people to help themselves, and to save from starvation the women and children. We have had to get up and are still getting up *rāgi* from Rajahmundry, as cholera is not to be had here in any quantity, and, if we have sufficient funds, we hope to supply the poorest with seed-grain when the early rains set in.

The more we think over the problem here, the more we feel that relief works, in the usual acceptance of that term, would be out of place. They would be too costly. If there were some way for the Government to supply grain to the most destitute, relief would reach the needy and no money be wasted on elaborate organisation, necessary enough in other places, but too wasteful here. Our fear is that the Kois, in many instances, will just let matters drift on, until they become too weak to do anything, and, as soon as the rains set in, gradually succumb. As far as lies in our power we wish to prevent this in the neighbouring villages. But we do not wish to apply to your Committee, until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

(Signed) JOHN CAIN.

CAMP CHINTUR, 22nd March.

SIR,—The Rev. Mr. Cain in sending his letter to you, to me for perusal, has asked me to give my opinion of the condition of the Kois, etc., in this taluk and I shall try to do so as well and as briefly as I can. Except a field or two in each of half-a-dozen villages the rice crop completely failed and the sama, except in a few villages in the Badrachallam Range and in one hill village of four families in the Rekapalle Range, withered and yielded nothing. The kondajonna was a complete failure except in two villages, and I saw only two good fields of manchijonna in a four months' tour. The above applies to the villages away from the rivers Godavari and Sebari. But even here though the manchijonna yielded well, the minor crops such as gingelly, castor, greens and horse gram failed and in some villages on the Sebari there was a total failure of crops. Fortunately this year there has been a bumper crop of toomiki fruit and the people have been living on this and the small quantities of grain got in exchange for the fruit, supplemented by the leaves of the bothi (a creeper), etc. In several villages the men only have toddy in addition. But the toomiki fruit and bothi leaves will give out by the end of this month and toddy by the middle of next. Mhowa flowers are being gathered now: but the crop this year is very poor, a four-anna one I estimate, in some villages much less. The mango crop has completely failed and the yield of tamarind is very small. The majority of the Kois and Reddies at the best of times live from hand to mouth and in ordinary seasons suffer to a certain extent on the failure of one or more of the minor sources mentioned above, especially for the last month or two before the early harvest of punasa rice or sama. This year I am afraid they will suffer actual starvation from June to November.

The Kois and Reddies will not come to ordinary relief works because if they did, their agricultural work would suffer. 'Till the end of May they will be engaged cutting and burning their podus and in June and July in ploughing and sowing.' In August and September they will have nothing to do, but it is the season of the heaviest rains here when little work of any kind can be done.

(Signed) H. H. WARD.

APPENDIX NO. 13.

BELLARY DISTRICT.

The following is the Report from Mr. Gillman, Secretary of the Bellary District Committee:—

I have the honour to report on the administration of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund in the Bellary District up to the end of October 1897. The statement forwarded to you on the 23rd instant gives all necessary details of the money spent and the numbers relieved from the Fund during that period.

The physical features of the Bellary district need little notice. The district may be described as a plateau sloping gradually from the Western Ghāts towards the East Coast, and divided almost in half by the hills of the Sundur State running north-west and south-east. It is studded with hills, more especially towards the west and south. Heavy black soil, known as black cotton, predominates in the eastern taluks—Alūr, Adoni and Bellary—and red soil in the west. Early cholum and early korra and cumbu, sown in June-July are the principal red-soil crops, and the cotton-korra crop, sown in September-October, and white cholum sown about the middle of October are the principal crops raised on the heavy black soil. The three named taluks and eastern portion of the taluk of Hospet adjoining Bellary taluk were those that suffered most in the recent distress, owing to the entire failure of the North-East monsoon in October and November 1896, on which the late or hingari crops depend.

The landholders of this district are mostly small pattadars holding from 10 to 30 acres each. Except the wet lands in the west of the district under the Tungabhadra channels and a comparatively small area protected by tanks and wells, altogether totalling about 60,000 acres, the entire district is cultivated with dry crops which are entirely dependant on rain. The rainfall is seldom absolutely satisfactory in any year and is often seriously deficient. The resources of the average small pattadar with a dry holding are not great, as he possesses little besides his land and cattle and he has hardly any idea of laying by the surplus of a good year to assist him in a year of scarcity. Under these circumstances it is not a matter for wonder that the cultivators are at once affected by a failure of crops, and that a serious and extensive failure, such as occurred in the past year, necessitates assistance from Government. It is seldom that one meets a man who has grown rich on the produce of his lands; the seasons during the past seven years have been too generally unfavourable to admit of large profits. The rich men in the villages have generally made their money by money-lending or trade.

The record of agricultural operations in this district in 1896 is a dismal one. Sowings of the early or mungari crops—yellow cholum, korra and cumbu—commenced in June under a rainfall which, though not up to the average, was sufficient. These are generally harvested in October-November and require good showers in September to bring them along. In 1896 the rainfall up to the middle of August was sufficient to prevent any great anxiety being felt as to the prospects of the standing crops. But in August the rains ceased and during the period of three months from the 24th August till 24th November, practically no rain fell in the three eastern taluks, the falls being—

	INCHES.
Alūr	30
Adóni	42
Bellary	126

There was a similar want of rain in the rest of the district, though not so absolute. The drought proved disastrous to the mungari crops.

In November there was a sudden burst of the North-East monsoon, but the fall was not sufficiently copious to thoroughly soak the black cotton soil, nor well distributed. The rain stopped as suddenly as it came and the extensive sowings of late or hingari crops which it stimulated, were an almost entire failure. Out of 18½ lakhs of acres sown during the cultivation season of 1896, 7½ lakhs (41 per cent.) had no yield and 5½ lakhs yielded 1 to 4 annas. This was a more serious failure of crops than in the year 1891, when out of 15 lakhs of acres sown, 5½ lakhs (37 per cent.) yielded nothing and 5 lakhs 1 to 4 annas. Bellary and Alūr, which are chiefly dependant on the late crops of cotton and korra, were far the worst affected taluks. Adóni and Hospet did not suffer to such an extent, as the early crops sown in the red soils in Adóni yielded something, and in the west of Hospet the wet crops under river channels gave at any rate straw for cattle and also some outturn. But the east of Hospet was as bad as Bellary and Alūr taluks. Cholum, which is the most important food-grain in the district, occupying as it does 46 per cent. of the cultivated area, suffered severely, 50 per cent. of the area sown with this crop yielding nothing and 23 per cent. from 1 to 4 annas. Next to cholum, korra is the most extensively grown crop, occupying 14 per cent. of the area sown. Of the sowings 55 per cent. were a total failure and 28 per cent. yielded 4 annas or less. Cumbu and ragi come next in importance and paddy last. Paddy was the least affected of all as it depends not on rainfall but on unfailing sources of irrigation.

Such, very briefly stated, is the account of the failure of the harvest of 1896, which necessitated the starting of Government measures of relief in the district before the close of the year. I now turn to the organization and work of the Charitable Relief Fund.

On the 4th March 1897 a public meeting was held at the Court-house, Bellary, for the purpose of appointing a general District Committee to administer the moneys of the Charitable Relief Fund which might be allotted to the district, and also to raise subscriptions in aid of the same. Mr. Stuart, the Collector, who presided explained the objects of the Fund, distinguishing them

from the relief that it was the duty of Government to afford. A District Committee of representative gentlemen, European and Native, from every taluk in the district was formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions in aid of the Fund and an Executive Committee consisting of the principal officials of the district and of non-official residents of Bellary was also formed to transact all business connected with the administration of the Fund in the district. Immediately after the conclusion of the general meeting, the Executive Committee sat to arrange for the formation of sub-committees to administer relief in the taluks and municipalities of the District. In the result the following sub-committees were formed on the dates noted :—

For Brucepetah, Bellary town, on	14th March 1897.
For Cowl Bazaar	15th "
For Adóni town	2nd April "
For Adóni taluk	13th March "
For Alúr	13th "
For Bellary "	7th April "
For Hospet "	about 7th April

In the taluks of Hadagalli, Kudligi and Rayadrug, no regular sub-committees were formed, but allotments were made to the Tahsildars of these taluks and distributed by them and their subordinates. In Bellary town the presidentship of the two sub-committees was voluntarily undertaken by M.R.Ry. P. C. Ananta Charlu Garu, B.A., Government Pleader, and Mr. Mathew Abraham, merchant, both members of the Provincial Committee. Under their guidance strong sub-committees of non-official gentlemen were formed, the members being so selected that each ward was represented by two, one being a Hindu and the other a Muhammadan. The wants of the starving poor in each ward were noted by the members and reported to the President, who issued relief tickets to those deserving them. The daily money-dole was limited to the B. class wage as calculated according to the Famine Code, and distribution was made once a week. For the first month or so this weekly grant was given at a house-to-house visitation by the members, but subsequently, to lighten the labours of the members, distributing centres were fixed by each committee at which recipients of relief were required to attend. The work of the committees ceased when the distribution of grain doles was undertaken by Government.

In Adoni town a similar committee was formed with Mr. Williams, the Deputy Collector, as President, the wards being allotted in the same way amongst the members—all non-officials. Mr. Williams was transferred soon after the formation of the sub-committee and the conduct of relief devolved on M.R. Ry. P. Hanumantha Rao Garu.

Indeed the work of relief in these towns was performed entirely by non-official gentlemen, who gave their services voluntarily and gratuitously. In the taluks the case was different. At the outset, the Tahsildars were appointed Presidents of the sub-committees to be formed within their taluks, and they were asked to divide their taluks into groups of villages or circles and to select a representative man in each circle as a member of the sub-committee, whose duty it should be to report requirements within his charge, and, if he could be trusted, to distribute relief therein. The result of the Tahsildar's selection in the taluks of Bellary, Alúr and Adóni, the most affected in the district, is noteworthy as showing the dearth of reliable men outside the towns. In the Bellary taluk, 53 circles were formed with a member to each. Of these, 42 were village officers or their relations. In Alúr, out of 37 circle members, 27 were village headmen and two were the fathers of village headmen. In Adóni taluk out of 28 circle members, 16 were village headmen. The private individuals appointed on the sub-committees are described in the lists submitted by Tahsildars as "large pattadars or inamdars" and "Sowcars." These types, and the Karnams and Reddis following, represent the élite of a Bellary village. Besides them there are none gifted with any capacity or intelligence. And it is frequently the case that the village headman is the principal ryot and a sowcar of the village. Little assistance was expected or obtained from such men. The general standard of morality among village officers is unfortunately not so high as to admit of their being entrusted with money for distribution. There have been a few satisfactory exceptions of Reddis who did good work, but the record of village officers who have been punished during the past six months for endeavouring to appropriate portions of grants after the same had reached the grantees, is sufficiently large to justify the want of trust in these men. From sowcars no assistance could, of course, be expected; it was not to the sowcar's interest that charity from an outside source should be given to any of his *clientèle* to drag them out of the slough into which distress had plunged them and from which they would ordinarily look to him for assistance. Of the few "large pattadars and inamdars" whose names find a place in the lists of sub-committees, not a single one so far as is known, rendered any help.

The distribution of relief in the taluks devolved in consequence almost entirely on officials, the bulk of the money being spent by Divisional officers and Tahsildars. The information upon which they acted was obtained in the first instance from village officers, but this was verified in every case by the Revenue or Circle Inspector and checked in a great number of cases by the Tahsildars themselves who cut out or added names to the lists in their numerous tours. The village officer's report has not been accepted as a basis for distribution without being fully verified.

In deciding the various forms of relief to be granted from the Fund, the Executive Committee of this district have been extremely careful to avoid any clashing with the Government measures, while at the same time endeavouring to keep in close touch with and to supplement those measures.

The objects on which the Fund money has been spent are—

- (a) Money-doles to respectable poor before the introduction of gratuitous grain-doles by Government.
- (b) Money-doles in addition to the famine wage on works and grain-doles.
- (c) Cloths to poor on relief works and in kitchens.
- (d) Grants for fodder for cattle to poor ryots.
- (e) Do. seed-grain.
- (f) Do. cattle.
- (g) Grants to ryots, artisans and others who have suffered during the distress, to give them a fresh start in life.

None of these measures of relief, except the first, trenched in any way upon the measures undertaken by Government during the recent distress. The explanation of the expenditure under object (a) is that the Committee at its formation in March noticed the existence of severe distress amongst the respectable poor, especially in the Municipalities of Bellary and Adóni, which was not being relieved by any Government measure. The Committee felt itself bound to step in and succour the starving townspeople, chiefly Muhammadans. The distribution of relief in this form ceased in May upon the introduction of free doles of grain at the expense of Government.

Very real relief was afforded under head (b) which can hardly be gauged by the amount spent. The individual items making up the account are small, not exceeding a rupee in most cases, but the recipients were in the direst need. An advance of Rs 10 (recouped when necessary) was placed in the hands of each officer in charge of a relief work and was spent most beneficially in such cases as the following :—

- (i) Daily allowance to relief-workers prevented by accident or by sickness from attending the relief work.
- (ii) Grants to destitute persons before their admission on the works or on the Government grain-dole list.
- (iii) Daily allowance to mothers on works to attend to sick children during a reasonable period.
- (iv) Allowance of 6 pies per diem to nursing mothers for thirty days after confinement.

In kitchens, the Government ration was supplemented by vegetables and condiments to the value of about 6 pies each meal in the case of nursing mothers and others who needed extra nutriment.

In villages, the Government dole of cholum, dhal, salt, tamarind and chillies was considered sufficient for all ordinary cases, but here and there individuals were found who were unaccustomed to such a diet and unable to thrive on it. They were chiefly people of respectability unfortunately reduced to straitened circumstances and also the old and sickly. In such cases the Government ration was supplemented by a small money-dole from the Fund, and in special cases a money-dole was permitted in place of the Government ration.

As regards object (c), in G.O. No. 218, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, Government drew the attention of the Executive Committee to a remark of the Collector's in one of his fortnightly narratives that a portion of the Famine Fund could be usefully employed in purchasing and distributing cloths to relief-workers. Thereupon the Executive Committee decided to make grants for the purchase of cloths for persons in need of them, and Tahsildars were directed to prepare and submit to their Taluk sub-committees lists of people eligible for this form of relief, whether on relief works in kitchens or in villages. Great care was enjoined in the preparation of these lists and preliminary inquiries in villages were insisted on to ensure that no person who, though wearing a ragged cloth had a better cloth at home, should receive the benefit of the charity.

The cloths were distributed in the taluks entirely by Divisional Officers and Tahsildars and in the municipalities by the Presidents and principal members and, with a few exceptions, those alone received them who deserved them. In August, the Executive Committee resolved to discontinue this form of charity as it was of opinion that the number of cloths distributed were sufficient to clothe the most deserving people, and also as it was informed that workers who really possessed good cloths at home or the means to buy them were attending the works in a semi-nude condition in the hope of getting a cloth from a distributing officer.

On the 26th July, the Provincial Committee intimated the despatch of a consignment of 160 cotton skirts, 20 flannelette, 160 chadars, 4 sheets, 1 parcel of tape, which represented the allotment to this district of the articles of clothing prepared by English ladies and sent to this country for the famine-stricken women of India through the instrumentality of Mrs. Janette G. Hauser. The consignment was duly received and as the cloths were such as would be especially prized by Muhammadan females, they were divided between the Municipalities of Bellary and Adóni where the Muhammadan element of the population is considerable and also very poor.

The clothes were much appreciated by the recipients. The President of one of the Bellary Sub-Committees reported : " They were much appreciated and the bright colours greatly admired. They were just the kind wanted by Muhammadan females." From Adóni town a long report has been received which shows that the cloths were distributed among children in the kitchens and among the respectable poor in the town. The recipients were most thankful for the beautiful articles and wore them with pride. Several charitable native gentlemen throughout the district distributed cloths at their own expense, notable among them being Kari Gangappa of Hospet, who distributed a number of cloths to members of his own caste (Lingayet) in the presence of the Honorary Secretary. He also maintained a private kitchen at Hospet, for his caste men. This gentleman also materially assisted the President of the Taluk Sub-Committee in the distribution of charitable relief from the Fund.

In the beginning of May, the Chairman brought to the notice of the Committee that there was much suffering among cattle and that many of the smaller cattle holders were threatened with the loss of some of their stocks. Owing to the absence of pasture and scarcity of fodder it was known that Government was granting loans for the purchase of fodder, but it was also a fact that the poorest ryots often could not obtain loans, being unable to give the requisite security, and it was just these ryots who would most feel the loss of their cattle. The Executive Committee therefore considered that, as they were permitted to grant money for the purchase of cattle to replace those that perished during the famine, they might make grants to keep them from dying. And it was thought that this course would be more economical, for, assuming the south-west monsoon of 1897 proved favourable, it would cost only from Rs 12 to Rs 20 to feed a pair of bulls until pasture became available, while the cost of replacing them would be from Rs 70 to Rs 120.

The Committee decided to give grants for fodder to agriculturists owning not more than two pairs of ploughing cattle, the grant to be for the support of such cattle only and not to exceed Rs 8-0 per week for each ryot.

The order was brought into force at once and, owing to short rainfall in July and the beginning of August, the grants had to be continued until September. The amounts spent in each taluk on fodder were as under :—

	R	a.	p.
Alúr			
Adóni	21,161	2	8
Bellary	15,904	8	3
Hospet	11,029	3	1
Kudligi	2,444	0	0
Hadagalli	31	0	0
	2,192	0	0
TOTAL	52,761	14	0

In addition to this expenditure free orders on the Fund's fodder depôts in the district were granted for a few weeks to ryots of the same class as were receiving the money grants. These orders were stopped in deference to the wish of the Provincial Committee.

There can be no doubt that in Alúr, Adóni and Bellary where the grants were systematically distributed, they were instrumental in saving a number of valuable cattle. The number of ryots who received grants in the whole district was 14,034 and of these about 13,000 belonged to the three taluks named. As the greatest care was taken to select only really deserving ryots for this form of relief, and as each of those relieved had at least one valuable bull, we may safely assume that at least 13,000 valuable cattle were either saved or prevented from hopelessly deteriorating through these grants.

There can be no doubt that the course adopted was more economical than to allow the cattle to die and then replace them, as the average cost of fodder per bull works out to about Rs. 4. The average number of weeks during which distribution of fodder grants continued was in Alúr 6, in Adóni 7 and in Bellary 6.

In the distribution of these grants and also of grants for seed-grain the agency of Circle and Revenue Inspectors and also of village Reddis to a small extent was utilized. Among Reddis and men of their class the following did good work :—In Alúr Rangana Gowd of Harivanam and Narayana Reddi of Halharivi; in Adóni Thanganna of Kosigi and Lingana Gowd of Yemmiganur. There were unfortunately many complaints that village officers, not indeed those entrusted with the distribution of money, had levied toll from the grantees. In Alúr eleven village officers were dismissed or punished for dishonesty in connection with the Fund grants.

The need for making grants for seed-grain is obvious. By the time that the cultivation season arrived the poorest ryots had consumed their small stocks of grain, and had neither money nor credit wherewith to purchase the quantity required to sow their land. Grants from the Fund were limited to the amount of seed required to sow 10 acres, the limit grant per acre being 8 annas. The grants made in the various taluks under this head were as under :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Alúr			
Adóni	10,110	2	0
Bellary	7,305	1	0
Hospet	11,999	2	0
Hadagalli	2,157	7	0
Kudligi	709	4	0
Sandur State	3	0	0
	250	0	0
Total	32,534	0	0

The grants were made only to the poorest ryots, but it was not considered advisable to impose a limit of individual holding and prescribe that grants should not be made to ryots holding above that limit, the reason being that the poorest ryots are often those holding between 10 and 30 acres. Another reason was that the holding of a ryot could not be gauged by the extent held on patta. The custom of sub-renting lands is very common in the district, and many a ryot who has but a small extent of land in his own name cultivates a considerable extent as a tenant.

Grants for cattle were made *entirely* by Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. The grants were made to struggling ryots who had sold or lost their cattle owing to the famine. The limit grants were Rs. 50 for two bulls generally, and Rs. 40 for a single bull in the black cotton country, where animals of heavier draught are required. The largest grants were made in Alúr (Rs. 17,447) and Bellary (Rs. 14,991). This was the natural consequence of the great loss of cattle by death and by sale owing to the entire absence of pasture and the great insufficiency of fodder in these taluks. There is no satisfactory means of ascertaining the loss of cattle in these taluks, as no cattle census was taken in 1896; probably in Alúr the loss from death and sale of all kinds of cattle was 25 per cent.

As the grants were made *entirely* by the higher officials, we may be sure that they reached the grantees, and we can also be sure that the grantees were deserving persons, as their names were subject to the scrutiny of three distinct officers, *viz.*, the village Reddi or Karnam, the Revenue or Circle Inspector and the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar. The only question is whether the grants were applied to the purchase of fresh cattle. Upon this point the evidence of the Honorary Secretary may be recorded. In the Alúr taluk grants had been made in July earlier than any other taluk, and by the end of the month over Rs. 14,000 had been spent. Mr. Gillman toured in the taluk in September and one of his objects in so doing was to see how this money had been applied. He visited nine villages in different parts of the taluk and called upon 63 recipients of cattle grants to show what they had done with the money; 59 of them produced bulls which had undoubtedly been purchased with the grants, and generally these animals were good value for the money. In a few cases the grantees had paid less than the grant of their bulls and spent the balance upon seed-grain. No ob-

jection was taken to this distribution of the grant. But in one village visited (Arikra) it was evident that the grantees had leagued with a rich ryot to cheat the Fund, he selling them some worthless animals at a small price and they exaggerating the price paid before the inspecting officer. Mr. Gillman inspected the village in the morning and by that evening the Tahsildar had received Rs. 80, the full grant, from four dishonest grantees. Mr. Gillman was satisfied that the recipients of the grants in the villages inspected were selected from the poorest ryots; 24 of them were Boyas, 13 Lingayets and Telugas, 7 Muhammadans and 4 Madigas, the rest being Malas, Gollas, Kurubas and other poor castes. It may be mentioned that of the four men who had purchased no bulls three had not done so, as they complained that the village officers had insisted on being paid Rs. 2 by each of the grantees. This complaint was under inquiry at the time of inspection. And if it should subsequently transpire that similar "mamools" have been received by other village officers, the Famine Fund Executive must be held blameless, as it has so ordered the distribution that every rupee of the major grants and most of the two minor grants—fodder and seed-grain—has been paid direct into the hands of the ryots by officers who are, above suspicion. Except in rare cases where actual deceit has been practised and a man has received a grant who is not entitled to it, it will be found that the village officer has been recompensed by the grantee after the latter has received the money.

About the middle of October the accounts of seed-grain and cattle were closed and thenceforth Presidents of sub-committees were directed to include the grants under a final head, "grants to ryots, artisans, etc., to enable them to make a fresh start in life". Under this head Presidents were empowered to distribute money to the poor who had suffered in the famine to enable them to recover the position in the social scale which they had lost during it or to enable them to repair any special loss which they had suffered, such as cattle, tools, damage to houses, etc. As the accounts up to October 31st only show the expenditure under this head for a period of fifteen days, the amount spent is not large. Between the 1st and 15th November a further sum of Rs. 80,000 had been spent, and it is expected that the whole allotment will have been distributed by the close of the current month. The distribution has been entrusted entirely to Divisional officers and Tahsildars, and the lists upon which they act have been most carefully prepared, so that every village receives its fair share of charity and that none but the deserving are relieved.

When the district accounts of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund are finally closed it will be possible to give details of the expenditure under this most important head.

As this report has been promised by the 26th instant it has not been possible to place it before the District Executive Committee. This will be done as soon as possible and their resolution upon it will be forwarded. That resolution will probably contain the committee's thanks to the many native gentlemen, official and non-official, who have come forward voluntarily to assist in the great and humane work of relieving their famine-stricken brethren and who have not spared themselves in fulfilling the arduous duties that were assigned to them.

APPENDIX No. 14.

KURNOOL DISTRICT.

The following is from the Report of the Kurnool District Committee:—

The Cumbum and the Nandikotkur Divisions having almost entirely escaped, the affected area consisted of the Pyapali Division to the west and the Nandyal Division to the south of the district. Particulars regarding the affected area and its population are given below:—

Taluk.	Division.	Area, in square miles.	Population in thousands.
(1) Pattikonda	Pyapali	(1) 1,134	139
(2) Ramallakott		(2) 846	125
(3) Nandyal		(3) 854	96
(4) Sirvel	Nandyal	(4) 613	65
(5) Koilkuntla		(5) 572	87

The physical condition of the area in which there has been distress.—Taluks (1) and (2) constitute the western section of the district. They form the northern end of the great Mysore plateau and are distinct in physical features from the other parts of the district. The whole tract is dotted with a number of bare rocky hills. In the north-western portion traversed by the river Hindri the soil is black cotton, while to the south-east it is red and extremely poor. There are numerous tanks in the Pattikonda taluk, but they are in most instances insignificant and cultivation under them is precarious. In the Ramallakott taluk tanks are few and small, though in eleven villages which are commanded by the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal the crops irrigated from that source are safe. Taluks (3), (4) and (5) form the middle and southern portions of the Kundu Valley, or the central section of the district. The greater part of this tract is an extensive plain with rich regar soil well adapted for cotton and other valuable crops. The Nallamalai and Erramalai ranges bound the Division on the east and west respectively and in the villages adjacent to these hills the soil is red-greyish and gravelly. The Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal traverses the entire length of the Kundu Valley, and the crops under this source and under the tanks fed by it are permanently protected. In the other cases the harvests depend on the monsoons.

The economic condition of the people.—The people of the affected taluks are generally poor. They live in houses with walls of stones in mud and roofs covered with brushwood and mud. The average extent of a holding is about 11 acres and some 66 per cent. of the pattadars pay less than Rs. 10. The ryots, as a rule, cultivate their own lands. The owners of very large holdings sublet some of their lands and employ labourers on others. About 10 per cent. of the population are field labourers depending for their subsistence on agricultural operations. These are generally paid in

grain. General labourers earn from 2 to 3 annas per diem. The poor ryots and weavers, as well as the agricultural and general labourers, get on tolerably well in normal years, but in seasons of drought or famine, they find it difficult to maintain themselves.

Chief occupations.—About half the total population is engaged in agriculture as—

- (1) Land-owners engaged in cultivation.
- (2) Tenants and sharers engaged in cultivation.
- (3) Field labourers and crop watchers.
- (4) Farm servants, etc.

The general and unskilled labourers form about 10 per cent. The occupation next in point of numbers is that of weaving, the chief centres of this industry being Kodumur, Gudur and Kurnool. In the two places first named female cloths are produced and in the last carpets of average quality. Some of the weavers carry on their business with their own capital and others with funds advanced to them for cloths by traders. The other occupations are those of shepherds, artisan and commercial classes, persons doing domestic, etc., service, e.g., washermen. These, however, are not affected by adverse seasons in the same way as ryots, labourers and weavers are. The traders rather welcome a season of distress, as it affords them opportunities of making larger profits than usual.

The nature and extent of the failure of the harvests of 1896-97.—The early crops of 1896-97 were in many cases totally lost or yielded only a poor outturn owing to the deficient rainfall in September and the almost complete absence of rain in October. The later sowings of August and September also would have been lost but for the few showers of November which benefited them considerably. The ryots, in the hope that more rain would fall, sowed vast extents with white cholum, etc., in November, but as there was no rain subsequently the outturn of the new sowings was nil.

History of the organisation when District and Sub-Committees were appointed.—As desired in paragraph 7 (b) of the circular of the Central Committee, a brief history of the organization of charitable relief in the district will now be given. In accordance with the instructions of the Provincial Committee contained in their initial circular dated 13th February 1897, steps were taken for the formation of District and Sub-Committees for raising subscriptions towards and administering the monies of the Charitable Relief Fund. A meeting called for the purpose at Kurnool for the 24th February had, owing to the short notice given, to be postponed. A meeting was subsequently convened on 22nd March 1897, the Assistant Collector presiding, at which the leading gentlemen of the town were present and the District Committee and the Town Sub-Committee were formed and the office-bearers were appointed. On 4th April 1897 another meeting, at which the Collector presided and which was largely attended by all classes of the population, was held for the purpose of raising subscriptions towards the fund. Subscriptions to the extent of about Rs. 1,800 were promised and Rs. 180 was collected on the spot. The Divisional officers were also asked to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of influential and respectable people in their respective Divisions and to arrange for the formation of Sub-Committees at suitable centres. Public meetings were accordingly held and Sub-Committees were appointed at the following places on the dates and for the local areas mentioned opposite :—

Name of place.	Date of formation of Sub-Committee.	Local area.
Cumbum . . .	4th April 1897 . . .	(Cumbum Division.)
Atmakur . . .	9th April 1897 . . .	(Head-quarter or Nandikotkur Division.)
Pattikonda . . .	11th April 1897 . . .	(Pyapalli Division except Kurnool town, the operations in which were managed by the Town Sub-Committee.)
Nandyal . . .	14th April 1897 . . .	(Nandyal Division.)

The nature and the number of the charges into which the district was divided.—The district was thus divided into five charges, of which Kurnool town formed one and the other portions of the Pyapalli Division another, while the remaining three were co-extensive with the Revenue Divisions of Cumbum, Nandikotkur and Nandyal. The Cumbum and Nandikotkur Divisions being unaffected by the distress, the Sub-Committees formed in them only assisted in collecting subscriptions towards the Fund. The other Sub-Committees acted both as collectors of subscriptions and as distributors of relief.

Agencies employed for the actual distribution of relief.—The Nandyal, Pattikonda and Kurnool Town Sub-Committees administered relief under heads I and III out of the funds supplied by the District Committee. Money-doles were given and clothing was distributed by the members of the Sub-Committees in person. Sums required for extra relief to inmates of kitchens were generally advanced to the persons in charge of these institutions for the purchase of vegetables, etc. The distribution of relief under head IV to ryots of red-soil villages was performed by officers of or above the grade of Tahsildars except in two cases in the Nandyal Division, where Deputy Tahsildars were entrusted with the work. These officers were assisted each by a non-official member of the District Committee or the Sub-Committee concerned. The distribution of money in black-soil villages was made exclusively by officers of or above the rank of Deputy Collectors similarly assisted by non-official members.

Measures adopted prior to the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.—As stated above, the District and Sub-Committees were all formed by the end of the first half of April 1897, but the actual distribution of relief was commenced only about the beginning of the following month. Distinct symptoms of distress having manifested themselves in the Koilkuntla taluk as early as November 1896, a test work was opened in that month at Owk which was soon converted into a relief work. A few days afterwards another work was opened in the same taluk, and as the season of scarcity advanced, relief works with kitchens attached hereto for feeding the dependants

of the coolies and needy persons unfit for work were started in the Pattikonda, Sirvel, Nandyal and Ramallakot taluks. The scheme for the relief of weavers who clamoured for employment as the intensity of distress increased was introduced in the following centres on the dates noted against them:—

Pattikonda	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	19th February 1897
Kurnool town	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	15th March 1897.
Koilkuntla-Attagada	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	First week of May 1897.

The system of village relief was introduced in a small number of villages in the Ramallakot and Pattikonda taluks towards the end of April. Thus by the time the relief measures organized by the Charitable Fund were actually in operation the distress was fairly widespread.

There were also a few instances of private charity. Raja Sir Savalai Ramaswami Moodelias of Madras sent about 250 cloths in March for distribution among the coolies attending the relief works and their dependants. M.R.Ry.R., Lakshmi Narasu Pantulu, a retired Deputy Tahsildar, fed 300 or 400 people for ten days during the Sivaratri festival at Atmakur. Similar relief was also given by certain Committees for short periods. Gratuitous relief was afforded to the hill tribe of Chenchus by the Baptist Missionaries living in the Cumbum Division out of funds received by them for the purpose from friends in England and America.

How the relief administered by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund fitted in with that given by Government.—When the operations of the Fund commenced gratuitous relief was being given by the State only in a very few villages. The Sub-Committees had, therefore, in the initial stages to devote the funds at their disposal almost entirely to the relief of the helpless poor by money-doles. As the operations of Government in respect of village kitchens and grain-doles increased and finally attained completeness, the relief given by the Committees in the shape of money-doles was proportionately restricted and eventually withdrawn. Their operations were then confined to giving of clothing to the deserving poor, supplementing the rations given in kitchens by the provision of vegetables, etc., giving additional allowances of a few annas per month to the more respectable of the recipients of grain-doles from Government for the provision of firewood, etc., distributing money-doles to a few respectable families for subsistence, etc. When the south-west monsoon had set in, grants were made for the purchase of seed-grains, etc., to the impoverished ryots to enable them to commence their agricultural operations. Sums were disbursed for the provision of fodder to the cattle by way of supplementing the aid given by the State in the shape of the concession of free grazing. When in consequence of the copious rains of September the black-soil lands were ready for cultivation and the Government relief works were one after another being closed owing to the improvement in the season, extensive grants were made to the ryots whose resources had been exhausted in order to restore them to their original condition and to enable them to make a fresh start in life. In every case therefore the relief afforded by the Fund was a welcome supplement to that given by the State agency and was most opportune. Care was taken by the Divisional and Taluk Officers, who were in all cases members of the Local Sub-Committees, to see that the two agencies did not overlap and that on the other hand they maintained close touch with each other.

Relief actually given by the Fund in all its branches.—A total sum of Rs.22,700 was allotted to this district, the particulars of the grant and of the redistribution of the same for the different affected areas being as follows:—

Object.	Total grant for district.	How redistributed.	To whom redistributed.
I and III	16,000	10,070	Town Sub-Committee.
		2,000	Nandyal do.
		1,500	Pattikonda do.
Miscellaneous	1,000	7430	District Committee.
Do.	700	1,000	Nawab of Banaganapalle.
		700	Collector for relief to Khandan families.
IV	60,000 (red-soil villages.)	30,000	Divisional Officer, Pyapalli.
IV	95,000 (black-soil villages.)	30,000	Do. Nandyal.
		45,000	Do. Pyapalli.
IV	50,000 (artizans who attended relief works.)	50,000	Do. Nandyal.
		25,000	Do. Pyapalli.
		25,000	Do. Nandyal.

Objects I and III, Nandyal Sub-Committee.—Of the allotment of Rs.2,000 the Nandyal Sub-Committee spent Rs.795-13-1 in relieving the destitute, and Rs.822-3-1 on account of respectable poor under head III. The balance of Rs.381-15-10 will be recovered and credited to the Fund. A part of the sum spent under head I was placed by the Committee at the disposal of the persons in charge of certain relief kitchens for the provision of vegetables, butter, milk, etc., to the inmates. Some Chenchus of Basawapuram and some relief workers were supplied with clothing.

This Committee also obtained a consignment of American grain from Calcutta direct and distributed it to about 1,500 people for a few weeks.

Pattikonda Sub-Committee.—A sum of Rs.1,500 was granted to the Sub-Committee at Pattikonda, out of which Rs.1,000 was placed at the disposal of the Famine Deputy Collector. Rupees 250 was allotted to the Deputy Tahsildar, and Rs.250 was kept as reserve. Rupees 189 was spent in the purchase of cloths for labourers on works, and Rs.106 in the supply of food to the children of relief-workers and the provision of butter, milk, etc., to the inmates of kitchens.

Kurnool Town Sub-Committee.—The operations of the Town Sub-Committee were conducted on a large scale and were very satisfactory. Rs. 10,070 was placed at the disposal of this Committee, of which nearly the whole has been utilized. The twelve municipal wards of the town were formed into six divisions, each of which was entrusted to three of the Sub-Committee members. These made a house-to-house inspection, and after careful enquiries selected the persons deserving relief, and gave them* tickets, on production of which the sums therein specified were paid. The number on relief gradually increased as the registration of the poor in the various wards progressed. The first weekly doles were given on the 9th May. The numbers rose from week to week till the 3rd of June. The system of State gratuitous relief having then been introduced into the town, the persons relieved from the Fund were gradually transferred to the Government lists, and there was a corresponding decline in the weekly number of persons relieved by the Fund. By the beginning of July the Government officials had taken over all the persons and the Committee completely stopped the weekly payments. The latter, however, supplemented the Government grain-doles by paying some of the recipients thereof 6 to 8 annas per mensem for fuel, etc. The amount spent on account of full money-doles was Rs. 4,570 and the weekly average of persons so relieved was 1,192. The monthly average of the persons who were given supplemental doles was 2,080, and the amount spent on their account was Rs. 2,892. The Committee utilized Rs. 781 in affording relief to respectable people, mostly Ghosha females, for three months: 1,491 persons were supplied with clothing at the aggregate cost of Rs. 1,466. Besides this, some of the chadars and skirts received from England were distributed by the Sub-Committee to 141 persons. A sum of Rs. 44 was spent on account of the town kitchen and Rs. 3 for the relief of certain patients in the municipal hospital.

In case of the Sub-Committees at Nandyal and Pattikonda, the official element took a leading part; but the Town Sub-Committee was almost wholly a non-official body. They did their work with interest and zeal and their operations were on the whole quite successful.

District Committee.—Grants were made by the District Committee in a few cases. Rupees 99 was spent in helping certain poor persons of Atmakur whose huts were destroyed by fire.

Flannel costing Rs. 69 was supplied to "famine babies" on works in the vicinity of the town, and distributed by the Famine Commissioner in person in July last. Rupees 100 was advanced to and spent by the Rev. Mr. Staunton for providing sundry comforts to some nursing mothers and weak persons on relief works. A sum of Rs. 176-11-0 was spent in the purchase, by the Tahsildar of Guntur, of fodder for sale at Nandyal to poor ryots at favourable rates. The fodder was all sold, but only after considerable effort on the part of the Tahsildar. The Provincial Committee is aware of the unsatisfactory result of opening a fodder dépôt at Dhone.

Special allotment of Rs. 1,700.—The whole of the amount of Rs. 1,000, sent by the Provincial Committee through the Political Agent to the Nawab of Banganapallee for relief in his territory, was spent by him in money-doles and in the purchase of clothing for distribution among the poor. Of the allotment of Rs. 700 for Khandan families (descendants of the old Nawabs and Mahomedan nobles of Kurnool) sent direct to the Collector by the Provincial Committee, Rs. 629 was spent and the balance remitted to the District Committee.

Grants under head IV.—The last and the most important item of relief administered by the Fund was the distribution of money among the ryots soon after the rains of June and September to enable them to resume their agricultural operations. As soon as the allotments for red-soil lands were sanctioned, steps were taken to distribute the amounts in the villages where the early sowings were being commenced. The following statement shows the amounts allotted to each of the affected taluks, the members entrusted with distribution, the amounts disbursed, and the balance:—

Division.	Taluk.	Persons who were entrusted with the distribution.	Amount allotted.	Amount spent.	Balance.
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Pyapalli.	Pattikonda.	Famine Deputy Collector .	4,800	4,800 0 0	...
		Special Deputy Collector .	3,600	2,461 8 0	1,138 8 0
		Tahsildar of Pattikonda .	4,200	3,500 0 0	700 0 0
		Special Loans, Tahsildar .	5,400	5,400 0 0	...
	Ramallakota.	Head-quarter Deputy Collector .	1,386	1,386 0 0	...
		Tahsildar, Ramallakota .	6,480	5,508 0 0	972 0 0
		Special Assistant Collector .	222	*231 0 0	...
		Huzur Sheristadar .	3,912	3,200 0 0	652 0 0
	Nandyal.	Head Assistant Collector, Nandyal.	3,000	2,978 8 6	21 7 6
		Deputy Tahsildar, Kalwa .	6,000	6,000 0 0	...
Nandyal.	Nandyal.	Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Nandyal.	5,400	5,400 0 0	...
		Tahsildar, Koilkuntla .	3,600	3,585 2 0	14 14 0
	Koilkuntla.	Do. Markapur .	2,400	2,400 0 0	...
	Sirvel.	Special Deputy Collector, Nandyal.	9,600	8,488 12 6	1,111 3 6
TOTAL.			60,000	55,398 15 0	4,601 1 0

*Rs. 99 spent by Mr. Pope from his own pocket and to be recouped from the district balance.

It will be seen that each taluk was divided into a suitable number of Circles, and an officer of Government and a non-official member were deputed for distributing the money in each Circle. The whole of the allotment was utilized with the exception of Rs. 3,462-8-0 in the Pyapalli Division

and R1,147-9-0 in the Nandyal Division. These amounts were ordered to be utilized for black-soil villages along with those sanctioned for such villages.

Grants for black-soil villages and Artizans, etc.—The allotments for black-soil villages and for the relief of artizans, etc., who attended the relief works have been distributed to the affected taluks as under :—

Division.	Taluk.	Allotment for black-soil villages.	Allotment for artizans, etc.
		R	₹
Pyapalli . . .	{ Pattikonda . . .	20,000	15,000
	{ Ramallakot . . .	25,000	10,000
Nandyal . . .	{ Nandyal . . .	17,000	8,000
	{ Sirvel . . .	3,000	5,000
	{ Koilkuntla . . .	30,000	12,000

The distribution was entrusted to officers of and above the rank of Deputy Collectors assisted, as a rule, by two non-official members in each case. It was occasionally found impossible to procure the attendance of more than one non-official. The amounts have almost all been distributed, but particulars as to the exact amounts spent and the number of persons relieved have not yet been received.

The various forms of relief were administered with sufficient care to ensure that the amounts spent were utilized to the best advantage. Owing to the smallness of the allotments under heads I and III relief could be given only on a limited scale, but the grants under IV being larger, thousands of poor ryots were afforded substantial help. In the case of red-soil villages the lists of individuals deserving relief were prepared in the first instance by the village officers and generally checked by the Revenue Inspectors. At the time of distribution independent enquiries were made at the appointed centres by the officers deputed to satisfy themselves as to the condition and circumstances of the persons recommended and the lists were revised with reference to the results of these enquiries. Opportunity was also taken by the Tahsildars on these occasions to ascertain in some cases the state of the ryots who were likely to be recommended for relief as cultivators of black-soil lands. Lists of such men were prepared by the Tahsildars for future use. In other cases lists were obtained from village officers as soon as the allotment for black-soil villages was sanctioned and they were revised after due enquiry, as was the case with the lists for red-soil villages, and the amounts disbursed accordingly. Wide publicity was given of the date and place of distribution and all ryots were made to assemble and enquiries were made in their presence before money was given away. In some cases the officers deputed for distribution made a house-to-house inspection in each of the villages assigned to them and satisfied themselves with the aid of a committee of respectable ryots in each village as to the eligibility of the individuals for relief. Steps were thus taken to ensure that relief was given to all persons in need of it, to the extent that was suited to the circumstances and on a scale compatible with the funds at the disposal of the officers concerned.

Although the amount of Rs95,000 allotted for black-soil villages has been utilized already, vouchers for the full amount have not yet been received, nor are particulars available as to the number of persons relieved under each sub-head. This amount and the Rs50,000 which is still in course of distribution have been shown as outstanding against the Divisional Officers concerned, and full details regarding them will be furnished as soon as they are received.

The special thanks of the public are due to Mr. M. B. Varada Aiyangar, B.A., B.L., a First-grade Pleader of Kurnool, for the great interest taken by him as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the District Committee in everything connected with the working of the Fund.

APPENDIX No. 15.

ANANTAPUR DISTRICT.

The following is taken from the Report of the Anantapur District Committee :—

The distressed portion of the district comprised all the taluks with the exception of Madakasira and Ratnagiri firkas in Madakasira taluk, Lepakshi and Hindupur firkas in Hindupur and Roddam range of Penukonda, thus extending over an area of 4,706 square miles with a population of 583,495. The excepted tract was by no means quite free from distress, but it did not become so acute as to call for Government intervention. The comparative poverty of the soil, the extensive wastes, the dryness of the atmosphere, the backward condition and want of enterprise of the people are generally the chief local characteristics. The district is situated in the 'famine zone,' so that untimely or deficient visits of rain are frequent. The people are chiefly agricultural, and there are some weavers in parts. There is comparatively little wet cultivation in the district. The dry cultivation preponderates, so that the failure of dry crops, especially of ehulam and korra, brings about scarcity.

On the sudden rise of prices in November 1896, the leading and influential persons of Hindupur, Madakasira, Penukonda, Gooty, and Anantapur convened meetings and formed private Committees to raise subscriptions to purchase grain and to sell it to poor people at cheap rates. The Committee in Hindupur did substantial good to the poorer classes by selling grain to them at cheaper rates during the whole of November. The Committees at Penukonda and Madakasira offered their help to the

poor whenever the prices showed a tendency to rise and the stock on hand acted as a check on the local merchants in not increasing the prices. There was grain with the Penukonda Committee up to June 1897, when it was bought over at market rates by the Sub-Committee for distributing grain-doles lest it should suffer by keeping when prices fell on the break of the south-west monsoon. The Madakasira Committee had its stock of grain up to October last and wound up its affairs only lately. The action of the Committee at Anantapur was in force during the months of October and November 1896, and that at Gooty existed only in name. M. R. Ry. K. Timma Reddi Garu, a Pleader at Gooty, maintained a stock of grain and sold to the poor during October and November one seer cheaper per rupee than the ruling market rate. And when the prices fell on the fall of the November rains he ceased to offer the help, and did not resume it when the prices again rose. Another form of private charity which existed in the district was by supplementing the Government dole in kitchens with a supply of vegetables, etc. Many kitchens in the Head Assistant Collector's Division had this advantage, and at Tadpatri it was continuously maintained for three or four months. Ediga Hanumanthappa, a toddy contractor at Penukonda, maintained a kitchen at his own cost and gave cooked food to a few destitute persons for nearly a year. The merchants of Bukkapatam were offering to maintain the Government kitchen at Bukkapatam by private subscriptions.

It was at this juncture, when the resources of private charity were being gradually emptied and the public could no longer extend their hand to relieve the suffering poor, that the Famine Fund happily lent its helping hand, and it was arranged that such subscriptions should go to the Indian Famine Charitable Fund, which came into existence on 15th March 1897, by the formation of a meeting in the Collector's office attended by the Collector, Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and private gentlemen, when it was resolved that the District Committee was to be aided by similar Divisional and Taluk Committees, and that they should act as auxiliaries for raising and collecting private contributions and administering funds that might be allotted to them by the District Committee. The total amount of subscriptions in the district is Rs. 244-6-0. Out of this amount Rs. 159-4-0 has been remitted to Madras and the remaining sum of Rs. 85-2-0 was kept as permanent advances. Out of Rs. 35-2-0 kept with the Honorary Secretary of the Tadpatri Sub-Committee, Rs. 4 has been spent in relieving some urgent cases of poor cholera patients and the remainder was expended on contingencies, and Rs. 50 has been retained by the Honorary Joint Secretary of the District Committee.

The distribution of funds received from the Madras Executive Committee was undertaken by the Divisional and Taluk Sub-Committees. In the Anantapur Division, the Funds under head III have been mainly distributed by the Divisional Officers without the active intervention of any non-official members, but in their presence. In the Penukonda and Gooty Divisions, the course was different. Three Pleaders of Penukonda, *viz.*, M. R. Ry. V. C. Chakravarthi Iyengar Avargal, Sesha Sastrulu Garu, and Sivasankaram Pillai Avargal, have found time, to the detriment of their own professional work, to go round the villages with grain and make a proper distribution of doles. In Gooty, M. R. Ry. P. Kesava Pillai Garu and M. Subba Row Garu, Pleaders and Honorary Secretaries of the Committee, and Mr. O. S. R. Krishnamma undertook the enquiry of the deserving cases and have conducted the distribution. In Tadpatri, the distribution has been solely gone through by M. R. Ry. M. Lakshminarasimha Sastrulu Garu occasionally aided by Mr. A. Abdul Khadar Sahib, a local merchant, who was also active in selling grain for distribution at a cheap rate. The distribution of Funds under heads I and IV was under the supervision of the Divisional Officers and the major portion was disbursed by the Famine Divisional Officers. Rev. J. M. Ure of Gooty has undertaken to distribute Rs. 500 for seed-grain in the Tadpatri taluk and also money-doles to the poor people in Gooty taluk. The Tahsildars amidst the hurry of other famine operations showed no less activity and helped in no small degree the successful work of the Famine Fund. In order that the relief of this Fund might not overlap that administered by Government, the supervision was entrusted to the Famine Divisional Officers aided by the Tahsildars on Famine duty. They were in close touch with Government relief, and as such have taken every care to prevent the two agencies from overlapping. Moreover, the only branch which required control was the distribution of money-doles to respectable and infirm poor. The Fund was mainly administered in the month of May. When the Government village relief was introduced in the five northern taluks in the latter half of that month, most of the work of relieving the old and infirm was taken up by it, and since that the Famine Fund was restricted to the respectable poor. In Penukonda, where Government gratuitous relief was not introduced, the Famine Fund of that Division was mainly spent in that taluk. Thus both the systems have worked together.

The total allotments received for expenditure in this district under the various heads from the Madras Executive Committee are as follow :—

	R
Head I	2,100
Do. II	Nil.
Do. III	6,900
Do. IV	1,84,000
TOTAL	1,93,000

To this must be added Rs. 6 found in excess after payments by the Famine Divisional Officer, Anantapur. The total allotment then comes to Rs. 1,93,006. The total expenditure under various heads amounts to Rs. 1,82,921-14-11 only. The allotment under the several heads made by the District Committee to the several Divisional Committees were not adhered to always, but there are no great deviations from the purposes for which they were allotted. It was also not known in the beginning that the details of information now required in the statement B had to be furnished for the amount expended; and the Divisional Committees were therefore not instructed in the beginning about the method of maintaining proper accounts; and it has therefore now become difficult to give exact particulars.

Head I.—In the distribution of Funds, the amount allotted under head I was mainly utilized in the supply of clothing to Government relief-workers and the inmates of the kitchens. Very little of

the amount has been expended to supplement the ration in kitchens or famine wage on the relief works. As already noticed, the private charity offered in many of the kitchens in the Head Assistant Collector's Division did not necessitate such expenditure from the Fund, but in a few kitchens of Tadpatri taluk and two in the Gooty taluk Rs 55-4-0 were expended for this kind of relief. At the instance of the Famine Commissioner, the Famine Divisional Officer, Gooty, purchased 244½ yards of black flannel and distributed to 244 mothers to protect their children from variations of temperature. Men under a tropical sun require less clothing than women, and accordingly women's clothes were distributed on a larger scale. The men also had their share, but their wants did not receive so much attention owing to smallness of the amount on hand. The grateful and cheerful way in which the distribution was received by the recipients can be more interestingly described in the words of the Head Assistant Collector, Mr. N. Macmichael: "The kitchen inmates often complain of insufficiency of food; the chronic complaint of the relief-workers is that the wage is quite insufficient to fill their stomachs; and ryots who are helped with money to buy seed-grain and cattle often grumble and ask for more; but from the women who had received cloths I have had nothing but gratitude, and their faces brightened up wonderfully when they got them. An old man in Dharmavaram kitchen got a blanket from me the other evening; he was so pleased with it that he at once cuddled himself up in it and went off to sleep." The general cry, however, is that the allotment under this head was insufficient for a general distribution.

Head II.—The expenditure under head II is very little, being only Rs 15 paid to two Bengali deserted orphans at Guntakal for their conveyance as recommended by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer Surgeon-Major Hakeem. The Divisional Officers have been requested to report the number of orphans to be provided for from the Famine Fund, and their reports are awaited.

Head III.—As described above, the distribution under this head was made by the several Sub-Committees, a few members of which went to villages to enquire into the deserving cases and make a proper distribution. The mode of business under this head at Tadpatri was that each Sub-Committee member was required to prepare a list of persons deserving relief, and that the lists received from the several members were, after scrutiny, passed by the Committee. Thus, without the approval of the Chairman, nothing was disbursed in that taluk. The same method has been adopted more or less in all the other taluks. The distribution of doles was partly in grain and partly in money only in the cases undertaken by the Sub-Committees themselves, and it was in the form of small lump money grants in the case of distribution by officers on tour, and it was not possible to dole out grain also. Money under this head was, for the most part, spent in relieving the respectable poor and Mohammadan Gosha females. The period of relief generally extended from ten days to one month. This relief was given in all the taluks till the latter part of May 1897, when it was taken up by Government village relief in the five northern taluks, and this relief was then continued in the Penukonda taluk and to a few exceptional cases in other taluks. Care was taken to see that only deserving persons were relieved and that those who could in any way receive Government relief were excluded. Opportunity was not lost sight of to relieve the fallen Poliagar families of Chendana and Mettur called 'Dolaru' in the Tadpatri taluk. On this point the Gooty Deputy Collector remarks: "There can be no doubt that, but for the timely help from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, these families would have been put up to immense suffering. For I saw the hands and the forearms of some of the ladies of these families through holes in windows and doors and found them to be greatly emaciated." The following facts cited by the Famine Divisional Officer, Gooty, among others, may be interesting to the subscribers to the Fund: "Gangamma who had come to the work (at Muchukota of Tadpatri) that morning and who was *enceinte* wanted to go home as she felt labour-pains. Her home was about two miles distant. Another relief-worker was asked to accompany her home to tender any assistance on the way, but they had gone hardly a furlong when Gangamma was delivered of a child on the top of a gravel heap newly stocked on the side of the road. Her husband had deserted her during the distress. The necessary drugs required and the diet costing Rs 5-6-1 were purchased and given to her. The poor woman was overcome with fatigue and burst into tears."

"I met a woman named Devakka on the way to the work (Uravakonda). She was very sick and apparently unable to walk further and was sitting down exhausted. In reply to my question, she said with tears streaming down her eyes that she was delivered of a child two days back, that she had nothing to eat on the preceding day, and that, as she would be marked absent and paid nothing, she left the child in a hut and was slowly walking to the work in order to earn the day's wage and thus appease her hunger. I immediately purchased and gave her a new cloth and also rice, etc., which would last her for a fortnight."

"At Malapuram in Gooty taluk I noticed three orphans. The eldest girl was 12 years of age and had a younger sister and brother aged 5 and 3 years, respectively. I was astonished at the precocious motherly tenderness and care with which she took care of her sister and brother. When I asked her what she wanted, she sobbed and said that she wanted nothing but cloths for her brother and sister as they were shivering at night. I purchased and gave them cloths and also a cloth for the eldest girl as the cloth she had on was only rags."

Other cases of this nature there are to show how usefully the money subscribed to relieve suffering humanity was spent.

Cholera which broke out at Tadpatri recently brought mischief in the families already rendered helpless by scarcity. Money from this Fund was also given to deserving cases.

Head IV.—The amount allotted under head IV was partly expended on the fall of the earlier rains in June and secondly on the fall of September rains. The Famine Divisional Officers were instructed first to help the ryots on relieving works to enable them to begin cultivation of their lands. Enquiries were therefore made, and many of the ryots, the Head Assistant Collector writes, "were most unwilling to admit that they had any lands; some of them thought they were to be turned off the works, whilst others thought they were to be taken to Bombay to make up for the deficiency in the population there caused by the plague."

The first distribution was mainly restricted to advances for seed-grain to the ryots owning lighter soils (red and mixed). The rate per acre of dry cultivation ranged from 4 to 8 annas. It cannot be denied that a portion of this distribution was used for subsistence, as the cessation of rain for about nine weeks tended to the withering of the early sowings. The distribution was inopportune, and the result could not be foreseen.

The bulk of the amount was distributed after the heavy rains of September, and it may be safely asserted that this amount has been properly used for the purpose intended. It will be seen from statement B that 4,295 persons were given advances for cattle. The grants for cattle predominated in the later distribution, especially in Tadpatri taluk and Uravakonda Division of the Gooty taluk. On the fall of the rains and before the allotment was received for being utilized for advances for seed-grain, nearly the whole black cotton tracts which awaited the heavy showers were sown in a very short time, and it was therefore considered inexpedient to advance money for seed-grain; and it was on this account that the grants for cattle were greater. To owners of wet fields advances for ploughing buffaloes have also been given. The allotment given to Penukonda Division was not enough to grant advances for buying cattle, and small sums were therefore given to defray the cost of expenses of ploughing fields and manuring, etc. The advance granted for a bull ranged from Rs 12 to 25 in mixed soils and Rs 15 to 35 in black-cotton tracts. The price of a buffalo ranged from Rs 8 to 12. The advance for seed-grain ranged from 4 to 8 annas per acre. The village officers first prepared the list of deserving men from the chitta, it was then checked by the Revenue or Circle Inspector or a Sub-Committee member and then by the Tahsildar, occasionally by the Divisional Officer.

The vehemence and persistence with which the ryots requested the Divisional Officers for help can best be described in the following words of the Gooty Deputy Collector: "I first tried to send them away by kind words and explanations, but without the slightest effect. On the contrary, they became more noisy and insolent. They invaded the windows and door ways of my room, shutting out the ingress of all fresh air. Their persons and cloths emitted a most offensive smell. Cholera was then raging at Tadpatri and the adjoining villages. And there were in the crowd several near relations of persons who had recently died of cholera. I was therefore obliged to go out and send away the crowd. Directly I came back, the people came in again one by one, and in a quarter of an hour the crowd again became unbearable and I had to go out again and again to send them out. This had to be repeated the whole day. I may add that on one night the people refused to go away even after nightfall, and remained there the whole night. I called two police constables to send away the crowd. When I got up in the small hours of the morning, I found that the people had returned and were either lying down or sitting in the verandah of the taluk cutcherry, in the compound of which I was staying."

The Divisional Officer concludes that this work of distribution was the hardest and the most trying work he was given. This clamouring will testify to the necessity for such kind of help and the patience on the part of the officers. The distribution was always attended by a few non-official members. The Divisional Officers and Tahsildars have been requested to make confidential enquiries as to how far the purpose for which these advances were granted has been carried out, and the results will be included in the final report.

Village officers frequently tried to make some gain out of this distribution, but the Head Assistant Collector states "that precautions were taken against extortion on the part of the village officials, but it is feared that in spite of these, at least 25 per cent. of the money found its way into their pockets. Several village officers have been charged with malversation and are now under trial. But so long as the village officers exercise as much power over the ryots as they do at present, it seems difficult to prevent such extortion. They make the ryots believe that it is their influence that has got the ryot the money, and they insist on having their share. It is impossible to help the ryot if he will not do something to help himself." The Divisional Officer of Gooty also tried to prevent such extortions by deputing the Sub-Committee members to prepare the lists on visiting the villages and expelling the village officer at the time of distribution. Of course these means must have mitigated the evil practice to some extent, but still some of the money filtered down to the village officers.

The only other relief given by the Fund needing mention is the great unique one for the cattle, by the establishment of fodder depôts at various centres in the district. Owing to the failure of the crops in 1896 there was no sufficient stock of fodder. The facility afforded by opening the reserves for free grazing, free cutting of grass, etc., was not sufficient. A fodder depôt was therefore opened early in May 1897 at Tadpatri. It was followed by another at Dharmavaram in June, by two more in Anantapur and Guntakal in July, and a fifth in Chakralapalle of the Penukonda taluk in August. The demand for fodder can be estimated by the amount of fodder imported into the district. The total sale-proceeds of fodder credited into the several treasuries in the district amount to Rs 11,294-1-4, and the contingencies amounted to Rs 291-2-10. Thousands of cattle have been revived, and but for this fodder the condition of the cattle would have been much worse.

It is observed that the allotment to the district under heads I and III was not sufficient, but that under head IV it was quite enough.

To conclude, credit is due to the Famine Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, especially of Tadpatri and Gooty, and the following persons for their willing operation in the management of the relief:—

M.R.Ry. P. Gesava Pillai Garu	.	.	.	.	.	} Gooty.
" M. Subba Row Garu	.	.	.	.	.
" P. Sivasankaram Pillai Garu	.	.	.	.	.	} Penukonda.
" N. C. Chakravarthi Iyengar Avargal	.	.	.	.	.
" S. Sessa Sastrulu Garu	.	.	.	.	.
" M. Lakshminarasimha Sastrulu Garu	.	.	.	.	.	} Tadpatri.
" A. Abdulkhadar Sahib	.	.	.	.	.
" Chinna Kondayya	.	.	.	.	.
Rev. J. M. Ure	.	.	.	.	.	} Gooty.
M.R.Ry. O. S. R. Krishnamma, District Munsif	.	.	.	.	.

APPENDIX No. 16.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

The following report has been received from the Cuddapah District Committee :—

A public meeting was held on the 24th February, 1897 at Cuddapah to organize a District Committee in aid of the Fund. At this meeting Sub-Committees were organized for each of the divisions of the district; later on it was found necessary that each of the affected taluks should have a Committee of its own and such Taluk Committees were accordingly formed. In each Committee the work of organization and direction was in the hands of a small Executive Committee.

The mode of operations of these Committees was as follows :—In the affected area the taluks were divided into circles, each circle containing a small number of villages. In these circles persons deserving of help were registered by gentlemen selected for the purpose, whose work was checked by two other local members. Thus, before any individual's name was accepted for relief the recipient's status should have been examined by three gentlemen. The work of distribution was in the hands of a *panchayat* selected for the purpose and approved of by the Divisional Officer. That *panchayat* generally consisted of the village Magistrate of each village and four other ryots. Every person approved of by the registering officer and two Sub-Committee members, as above, obtained a ticket from the local Secretary. That ticket was actually handed over to the Sub-Committee member concerned who was to give it to the person recommended. The ticket-holder had to present the ticket to the *panchayat* for payments. Thus practically the distributing agency was quite distinct from the recommending agency. In the matter of accounts all the money of the Fund was credited into the Government treasury, and money was drawn out as occasion arose; when an amount was sent to the villages for distribution, the receipt of the officer was obtained. When the amount was paid off at the bi-weekly distributions, every payment was marked on the ticket under the signature of the distributing officer. The total amount paid under the ticket for the month was verified by the *panchayatdars* and the paid-up ticket was returned to the Secretary at the end of the month. The paid-up ticket so returned was accepted as a voucher for the expenditure in respect of the ticket-holder. The paid-up tickets so far as returned by the holders were filed in the Sub-Committee offices and are being audited. In every Sub-Committee office a daily cash-book, a nominal register of persons helped, and other accounts necessary for check were maintained. Similar accounts were maintained by the disbursing officer.

There are 187 members on the District Committee. These gentlemen are also members of the Committees of the taluks in which they reside. In each taluk there is a small working Executive Committee consisting of officials and non-officials, who had the control of the local work. In Cuddapah taluk there are 19 circles. Of these we have given relief in 12 villages. In Proddatur taluk the number of circles is 8 with 22 villages helped on the average. Pulivenda and Jammalamadugu have 25 and 10 circles, respectively, with 32 and 89 villages helped on the average.

The monetary aspect of the operations is detailed in the October and November accounts.

Under head I, the expenditure was mainly devoted to helping persons on Government relief in the kitchens with vegetables, castor-oil, &c., necessities which were not then allowed under the Famine Code. Rs 48-1-4 were thus advanced. Of this Rs 627-1-0 have been vouched for up to date. From all accounts this expenditure was very welcome to the inmates. It is impossible to state how many were thus helped, as the relief was extended over a number of kitchens and the expenditure was practically small.

The bulk of expenditure directly under the Committee was under head III. The total number of individuals helped was 12,483. The expenditure was large in the early stages of the famine, and as the Government operations extended the work of the Committee was narrowed.

The expenditure under head IV was under the hands of the Collector, who, it is believed, has separately sent a report on the same.

The Committee were enabled to do really beneficial work by the allotments of cloths. This benefit was largely appreciated as the State does not help the poor in the same direction. The number of people so helped was 8,708.

We regret our report is necessarily meagre. We have not received as yet any of the Sub-Committee's reports, but as the Honourable Mr. C. S. Crole is personally aware of the work in this district, and as our fortnightly narratives, when the operations were in full swing, fully disclose the nature of the work, we have refrained from entering into details.

The operations of the Committees are practically over, and as soon as the audit now going on is finished the Committees may cease.

APPENDIX No. 17.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

The following is from a report of Mr. A. C. Tate, Chairman, Cuddapah District Committee:—

Organization of the District Committee and the Sub-Committees.—Under instructions from the Madras Committee, I convened a public meeting on the 24th February 1897 at Cuddapah and organized a District Committee for the management of the funds. At this meeting a District Committee consisting of 187 members and Sub-Committees for each of the four divisions of the district were formed. Later on, it was found that each of the taluks in Jammalamadugu division (forming the major portion of the affected area) should have a Committee of its own, besides the Sub-Committee for the division. Accordingly, such Committees were formed on 12th March 1897 at Proddatur at a meeting of the Sub-Committee under the presidency of M. R. Ry. T. Ranga Row Avargal, Deputy Collector, Jammalamadugu division. In the District Committee as well as in each of the divisional or taluk Sub-Committees, a small executive Sub-Committee was organized to have direct control over the business connected with the funds. Each Executive Committee consisted of the President, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer and some official and non-official members.

The dates on which the Committees were formed and the number of meetings held by each Committee are detailed below:—

Name of the Committee.	Date on which it was formed.	No. of meetings held.
Cuddapah District Committee	24th Feb. 1897	26
Cuddapah Taluk	5th Mar. 1897	5
Proddatur	12th do.	11
Pulivendla	12th do.	2
Jammalamadugu	12th do.	10
Madanapalle	4th do.	8

The mode of operations of these Committees under object III was as follows. In the affected area, the taluks were divided into circles, each circle containing a small number of villages. For each village there was a *panchayat* selected and approved by the Divisional officer to attend to the actual distribution of money. In each circle the persons deserving of help were registered by gentlemen selected for the purpose, and that work was checked by two other local members of the Committee. Thus before any individual name was accepted for relief, the recipient's status should have been examined by three gentlemen. Every person approved of by the registering officer and two Sub-Committee members applied for and obtained a ticket from the local Secretary. The ticket issued in that person's favour by the local Secretary was not given to him direct, but sent through the gentlemen who originally registered his name to guard against false personation. The person who thus received a ticket through the gentleman by whom he was originally recommended had to present it to the *panchayat* of his village (consisting generally of the village Magistrate for that village and four other respectable ryots) for payment. Thus practically the distributing agency was quite distinct from the recommending agency. In the matter of accounts all the money of the Fund lay in the Government treasury; and money was drawn as necessity arose. When a remittance was made to the villages for distribution, the receipt of the members of the *panchayat* was obtained. When the amount was paid at the bi-weekly distributions every payment was marked on the ticket under the signature of the distributing officer for a consecutive period, the total amount paid under the ticket for the month was verified by the *panchayatdars*, and the paid-up ticket was returned to the Secretary for renewal at the end of the month. The paid-up ticket as returned was accepted as a voucher for the expenditure in respect of the ticket-holder for the period to which the ticket related. The paid-up tickets, so far as returned by the holders, were filed in the Sub-Committee's offices and are being audited. In every Sub-Committee office a daily cash-book, a nominal register of persons helped, and

Taluk.	Number of circles.	Number of villages.	other accounts necessary for check were maintained.
Cuddapah	19	24	Similar accounts were maintained by the disbursing officers. The number of circles into which each taluk was divided and the number of villages comprising those circles are given in the margin.
Proddatur	8	33	
Jammalamadugu	10	54	
Pulivendla	27	70	

In the beginning, *i.e.*, before Government undertook to relieve people gratuitously, the operation of the Fund was extended to all poor people who were either unable to go to relief works owing to infirmity or old age or who being respectable persons were not willing to go to relief works. But when the Government undertook to relieve gratuitously people, who were unable to resort to the relief works owing to old age or other physical infirmity, the utilization of the Fund under object III was solely restricted to the respectable poor who being able-bodied were not eligible for gratuitous relief from the State. While the Government relieved the destitute people of the working classes by means of relief works and by means of gratuitous doles, the Fund under object III was utilized in saving the lives of those respectable poor to whom aid could not be extended under the Famine Code. Thus the relief given from this Fund dovetailed with that given by Government and the one did not overlap the other. The operations of the Fund under head I were conducted through the Tahsildars of the affected taluks and their subordinate Government officials to whom necessary advances were made out of the Fund. The relief was only a supplementary aid to the children in the relief kitchens by Government, both by way of adding vegetables to their diet, which the Famine Code did not allow, and by way of supplying necessities for very young children with their nursing mothers.

Monetary Aspect of Operations.—Under object I, R948-1-4 was advanced and R627-1-0 of this has been vouched for up to the present. A talukwar statement of the expenditure is appended in the margin. No relief was given in this district under object II. The items to which the expenditure under head I were restricted were as already explained, children fed by Government in the relief kitchens—

	R	a.	p.
Cuddapah	146	7	8
Proddatur	276	13	10
Jammalamadugu	100	0	0
Pulivendla	103	11	6

supplying vegetables and small comforts to the necessaries not allowed by the Famine Code.

Taluk.	Number relieved.	Amount.
		R. a. p.
Cuddapah	3,193	5,032 12 8
Proddatur	1,982	5,901 14 1
Jammalamadugu	5,021	5,310 12 6
Pulivendla	1,977	3,151 2 9
Madanapalle division	310	244 12 6
TOTAL	12,483	19,641 6 6

Under head III, relief was confined to those already alluded to in the above paragraphs: 12,483 persons were thus helped in all, and the total expenditure, of which details are given in the margin, was R19,641-6-6. Besides the above, a sum of R7,663-14-4 as detailed below, was spent by the Committees, in distributing cloths to the destitute:—

	R	a.	p.
Proddatur taluk	139	8	0
Jammalamadugu taluk	340	11	6
District Committee, Cuddapah	7,183	10	10
TOTAL	7,663	14	4

The number of people so helped was 8,708.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle becomes unsatisfactory with the commencement of the hot weather, owing to scarcity of pasture and the dearth of fodder. At the end of May, a Fund fodder depôt was opened at Yerraguntla under the advice of the Famine Commissioner; but this depôt did not prove a success there as there was ample fodder in the surrounding villages, and it was subsequently transferred to Muddanur. Experience however soon showed that one depôt was quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the four affected taluks. The opening of one depôt at Muddanur caused much heart-burning among the ryots who did not happen to live within easy reach of Muddanur. Another was therefore opened at Kondapuram in Jammalamadugu taluk in the first week of August 1897. During the hot weather, the cattle in the sub-division taluks suffered much, and it was found necessary to open three depôts—one at Kurabalakota, the second at Vayalpad, and the third at Kadiri; but by the time they were actually opened, pasture sprung up in abundance, owing to the heavy rainfall in the second fortnight of August; and the stock of fodder that was sent down to these depôts remained unsold for a long time, and steps were therefore taken to sell it by auction. The statistics regarding the stock of fodder that was supplied to each of the depôts and the quantity sold are not available here, as the details were being reported by the superintendents in charge of the depôts to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Relief under Object IV.—Of the landholding classes a great many pattadars have holdings only a few acres in extent, the average holding comprising only 6.29 acres of dry, assessed at less than one rupee per acre and 0.67 acre of wet land. The great majority of this class of petty landholders are practically not much better off than the landless labourers and cannot be expected to tide over a season of scarcity. When by the advent of rains the distress was subsiding it was found necessary to give help to the poorer pattadars, not only to restore such of them as had suffered by the distress to their original position, but to enable those whom the hard times had driven on to the relief works to start in life afresh. With this object a sum of R1,95,000 was granted by the Madras Committee for this district, and it was allotted among the various taluks as noted in the margin. The bulk of the amount, viz., R1,40,000 was allotted to the area recognized as the famine tract, while the balance of R55,000 was allotted to the four sub-division taluks where cattle had suffered during the hot weather for want of pasture and fodder to a larger extent even than in the affected tracts. In the "affected tract" Cuddapah taluk suffered the least and was therefore given a smaller amount than the remaining three taluks, and for a similar reason the allotment for Madanapalle was smaller by R5,000 than for her sister taluks of the sub-division.

	R
1. Cuddapah	20,000
2. Proddatur	40,000
3. Jammalamadugu	40,000
4. Pulivendla	40,000
5. Kadiri	15,000
6. Vayalpad	15,000
7. Royachoti	15,000
8. Madanapalle	10,000

The lists of recipients for the subdivision taluks were prepared by the Revenue officials under the supervision of Mr. E. L. Vaughan, the Sub-Collector, who distributed the allotment for all the four taluks. The distribution in Madanapalle, Royachoti and Vayalpad was commenced by him on the 27th October 1897 and continued till the 4th November 1897. The distribution in Kadiri was commenced on the 17th November 1897 and completed on the 20th November 1897. The Sub-Committee's lists formed the basis of distribution in the other taluks, with such modifications as were found necessary on scrutiny. This subject has been fully reported upon in my note of the 18th November 1897, and I don't consider it necessary to dwell on it here. The allotment of Pulivendla taluk, viz., R40,000, was distributed by the Deputy Collector, M.R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur K. V. Lakshmana Rau, who was in special famine charge of that taluk. The balance of R1,00,000 relating to Cuddapah, Proddatur, and Jammalamadugu taluks (except R840) has been distributed by myself personally, assisted by the Deputy Collector M.R. Ry. M. V. Narayanasami Pillai, M. R. Ry. V. Krishnamachari, my Huzur Sheristadar and the Tahsildars M. R. Ry. G. Naraniah of Cuddapah M. R. Ry. A. Katchapeswara Iyer of Proddatur and M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Ponnappa Sastri of Jammalamadugu. I commenced the distribution in Jammalamadugu on the 20th September 1897 and the payments continued for five days, i.e., till the 25th September. The total amount paid on these

six days was Rs 20,305. In Proddatur I commenced payments on the 28th September 1897 and continued it at Mydukur till the 2nd October. I was prevented from staying there further owing to prevalence of cholera, to which four of my party succumbed. The total amount paid between the 28th September and 2nd October was Rs 4,635. In Cuddapah, I paid Rs 5,310 on the 8th October. At Yerraguntla, I paid on the 12th October 1897, Rs 3,080 of Proddatur taluk and Rs 12,310 of Cuddapah taluk and further sums, amounting to Rs 1,320, were paid by me at Cuddapah on three days between the 13th and 27th October. Between 10th and 16th November 1897 I again paid the Jammalamadugu and Proddatur ryots at Sankarapuram in Proddatur taluk and Muddanur in Jammalamadugu taluk. The amounts paid generally ranged from Rs 10 to 40. In a very few cases between Rs 50 and 70 were paid on the recommendation of Sub-Committees.

My subordinates and myself devoted a great deal of our time to the distribution of this money, taking the greatest possible care to avoid all kinds of scandal necessarily attendant upon such charitable distributions in this country. I do not wish to dilate on this subject at great length here, as I have already submitted a full note about it on the 18th November 1897. It will be sufficient to note here that the time devoted by me personally for work under this head was twenty-three days, during which period my Sheristadar and myself had practically no leisure left for doing other work, as the distribution, which was made publicly in the open air, used to last from 7 A.M. to dark with only an interval of two hours from 10 A.M., to noon and a second interval of about 15 minutes at 4 P.M. The work would not have occupied us so long or have been so troublesome had it not been for the prevalence of cholera throughout the affected tract. This fell disease claimed several victims among those to whom it was intended to give relief, and the dread of the disease frequently kept either whole villages or some of the ryots of villages away from the camps at which I made the distribution. At Jammalamadugu one of the proposed recipients was attacked by cholera while waiting in the crowd about 30 yards from my seat. All possible aid was at once rendered to him, but he died in hospital the same night, and next day large numbers of proposed recipients had gone off in a panic to their own villages and had to be paid on later dates.

It seems unnecessary to refer in detail again here to the controversy mooted by the Reverend Mr. Campbell, as the subject-matter has been separately dealt with by me in the note submitted on the 28th November 1897, and disposed of by the Madras Committee in its resolutions passed at the meeting held on the 29th November 1897. In accordance with one of the resolutions above referred to, I have deputed the Deputy Collector of Jammalamadugu division to accompany Mr. Campbell to find out cases from whom aid was "accidentally" withheld, but I may say again that it was manifestly impossible to give every poor person a dole of Rs 10, Rs 20, or Rs 30, and it will be an easy task to find more people ready to accept money and whom it will be impossible to class as undeserving. No one can pretend to be able to ascertain by a brief enquiry the actual monetary position of any ryot. To do so would require protracted enquiry of inquisitorial character, I claim for the work of my subordinates the truth of the converse proposition that no rich or well-to-do persons have been given any relief from the Fund, and I have not hitherto found it asserted by any person that a mistake of this kind has been made. What I personally saw and can vouch for is that all money was distributed in a most public manner, so that every one was aware of what was done, and I impressed on my subordinates the necessity for using the utmost care in drawing up the lists of recipients, and I have the fullest confidence that their lists are in every way admirable ones.

A sum of Rs 80,000 was allotted by the Madras Committee for making grants to weavers, artisans and craftsmen. The principal industry carried on in this district, especially in the affected taluks, is weaving, and as the workers in cotton fabrics generally suffer during distress, I resolved to grant the bulk of the allotment to weavers. In Proddatur and Jammalamadugu the Government scheme for the relief of weavers at their own trade had been at work for many months and enabled us to find out what weavers were really in need of relief. A list of all weavers on the relief rolls at both the centres from the commencement of the relief operations was obtained and adopted as the basis of distribution. From this list I excluded such individuals as had ceased to be borne on Government relief prior to August, as I took that as an indication that they were able to get on without Government aid, and were apparently either possessed of sufficient means or were working for the local cloth merchants who were exporting cloths to the Bombay Presidency. To each of those who were on Government relief continuously from the beginning and were turned off by Government on the close of relief operations, or prior to that for other causes not indicating wealth, I gave Rs 30 as a valedictory dole. This was the maximum dole given; but in some cases where the weavers were irregular workers or were members of the same family or partners of the same loom reduced grants of Rs 20 or 10 were given according to the circumstances of each case. In some cases the weavers were exceedingly dilatory in the production of the Government cloths, thus showing that while being continued on Government relief they were also working for the local cloth traders. In applying this rule every consideration was shown to those whose dilatoriness or other irregularity appeared from my enquiry on the spot to have been due to causes beyond their control, such as sickness or death of some members in the family or other domestic inconveniences. Some of the weavers of the villages of Jammalamadugu taluk, bordering on Tadpatri taluk, who first sought relief under the Jammalamadugu scheme, afterwards went over to Tadpatri, when the weavers' relief scheme was started at that station. I got a list of such men from Tadpatri and made payments to them and sent a list of such men to the Collector of Anantapur in order that they might not receive doles again there. Of the weavers that received relief at Proddatur, there were several weavers belonging to the affected villages of Cuddapah taluk and they also got doles along with the Proddatur men. In Pulivendla there was no Government weavers' scheme, and this kind of industry is very insignificant as compared with that carried on in Proddatur and Jammalamadugu. There I adopted the list of weavers that were on the relief works, prepared by the officers in charge of relief works. Experience however, showed that their statements were not of much value, and there was no proper and safe means of identifying the persons shown in the lists. With the greatest possible care I made payments to some people of this taluk also. Another large industry is carried on in brass-making in Vonipenta of Proddatur taluk. A list of 66 men employed on this trade and deserving of relief was made by the Tahsildar

and they were paid Rs 30 each. The total allotment, amount paid, and the number of persons benefited, are shown in the subjoined statement :—

Taluk.	Allotment.	Expenditure.	Balance.	Number of recipients.
	R	R	R	R
1. Jammalamadugu	80,000	3,305	3,775	1,940
2. Proddatur		16,090		780
3. Cuddapah		4,000		154
4. Pulivendla		2,830		
		76,225	3,775	2,874

The distribution of the amount under head F was made by me in person, assisted by my subordinates, and the period occupied in actual distribution was eleven days. The balance in hand under this as well as under head C, *viz.*, Rs 4,615, will be left over till the result of the enquiry ordered in compliance with the resolution of the Madras Committee on the 29th November, is known.

In concluding this note, I desire to express my high appreciation of the disinterested labours of M.R.Ry. T. M. Muniswami Aiyar Avargal, Pleader of Cuddapah, who was one of the Honorary Secretaries of the District Executive Committee. He has been indefatigable in his labours throughout and on his shoulders the brunt of the Committee's work fell. He was ably assisted by his Joint-Secretary M.R.Ry. A. S. Vaithenatha Aiyar, Headmaster, Cuddapah High School, but from the nature of the duties of the latter gentleman and from his inability to tour, the great bulk of the work fell to the lot of M.R.Ry. Muniswami Aiyar, and he discharged it most ably and willingly.

APPENDIX 18.

MALABAR DISTRICT.

The following are extracts from a very full and able Report from the Malabar District Committee :—

I.—THE COLLECTION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Committees formed.—In accordance with the circular of the 18th February 1897 issued by the Provincial Famine Committee, Madras, a public meeting was held at Calicut on the 6th March, with the District Judge, Mr. H. H. O'Farrell, in the chair; and an influential District Committee was formed to co-operate with the Provincial Committee in raising subscriptions in aid of the Famine Fund and, if necessary, administering the Fund. The Divisional Officers of Malabar were then requested to arrange for the formation of Sub-Committees, with the result that eighteen Sub-Committees soon came into existence, in the ten taluks of the district, the head-quarters of nearly every Sub-Magistrate and Sub-Registrar being represented by a Sub-Committee.

Appeals for Subscriptions.—Printed subscription lists and appeals for subscriptions in English and Malayalam were freely circulated through the various Sub-Committees. Several members of the District Committee and of the Sub-Committees kindly undertook the circulation of lists among their friends. Lists and appeals were circulated by the District Committee through the heads of various offices among their subordinates and through the Heads of Schools and Colleges among their staff and pupils. Heads of Departments, like the Assistant Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue, the Executive Engineer, and the Superintendent of Post Offices, kindly undertook the circulation of the District Committee's lists among their subordinates throughout the district. The District Committee insisted on every such list being returned to the local Secretary after circulation.

Receipts how vouched.—It was ruled that a consecutively numbered printed receipt must be granted to every subscriber on receipt of his subscription. Every time a remittance was made by a Sub-Committee, the Secretary of such Sub-Committee was required to forward to the Secretary of the District Committee a complete list of the names of the gentlemen from whom the subscriptions were collected. The District Committee discouraged the entries of lump amounts as collections made by particular individuals and insisted on the name of every subscriber being specifically entered in the list, however small his subscription. Consolidated lists of the names of all the subscribers were regularly published in the District Gazette and occasionally in the local English and Vernacular newspapers. Spare copies of these complete lists of subscribers were printed in the District Press and freely circulated through the members of the various Committees. Every possible means was thus taken to satisfy the subscribers that every anna paid had been duly credited in the accounts of the District Committee.

The Committees.—The Collector and his Revenue subordinates, while strongly sympathising with the movement and rendering us all the aid we sought for, abstained from taking any active part in the raising of subscriptions; this work was left mainly in the hands of non-officials or of Government servants belonging to departments other than the Executive. When the time came for administering relief, the Collector, Mr. G. W. Dance, readily agreed to become Chairman of our Committee and placed at our disposal the services of his subordinates for administering the funds allotted for local relief. While the Revenue officials and our Local Committees cordially co-operated throughout the whole period, our Local Committees were made responsible for the collections and the Revenue officers were made responsible for the administration of relief, the collecting and spending agencies being thus kept distinct.

II.—THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

Malabar is a narrow strip of land, about 150 miles long from north to south, situated on the maritime side of the Western Ghats. It embraces an area of 5,585 square miles with a population of two millions and a half.

The south-west monsoon regularly bursts on this coast about the beginning of June, the rains continuing till October. But for the Western Ghats on the one side and the Arabian Sea on the other side and the consequent regularity of the south-west monsoon, the porous soil of Malabar could not be so productive as it is. But it so happens that this monsoon is not an unmixed blessing to the poorer classes. It is just during these monsoon months of July, August and September that the poorer classes find it hard to obtain sustenance. The ports are then closed, and the shipping trade, which is then slack, throws a number of labourers out of work. The harvesting of the first rice crop, known as the *Kanni* crop, begins only in September. The rice crops on the ground are then sufficiently advanced to require only a very small amount of attention from out-of-door labourers. The stores reserved from the previous season's crops are then at the lowest ebb. To add to these, they are the months most injurious to the health of the poor. Their huts are too poorly built to afford them sufficient protection from the damp and cold of these wet months.

Malabar never produces grain enough for home consumption. Though the district exports some rice, it imports a much larger quantity. The famine in other parts of India largely diminished the usual importations this year, while famine prices elsewhere induced a larger export of rice and reduced the slender savings from previous crops. This state of things did not make itself felt till the south-west monsoon began, the ports got closed, and the annual slack season commenced. High prices became the order of the day, the ruling prices being higher than the normal rates from the beginning of the year. The warning rates were reached by the 1st May and scarcity rates by the end of July. Throughout August, the prices were higher than the scarcity rates, while in September they became a little easier. The October prices were the same as those of May, *i.e.*, higher than the warning rates.

Barring a little ragi grown in Wynaad and harvested in November, rice is practically the only food-crop grown and consumed in the district. Unless and until rice became cheap, distress was bound to be widespread. High prices, wet months, and poor huts combined to undermine the health of the labouring classes and to increase the ravages of cholera, which accounted for over 5,000 deaths in July and over 10,000 deaths in August. There was an increase in the number of applicants pressing for admission as in-patients, who were suffering more from the effects of starvation than from any actual disease.

The reality and the acute nature of the distress are best testified to by the fact that at various centres private individuals collected subscriptions and distributed rice and cooked food-doles even before the Famine Committee started relief operations. Such relief operations began on a small scale at Calicut in the middle of June, gradually extended to other parts of Malabar, and continued till August.

Early in August, the District Committee resolved to continue and extend the relief operations that had been started and so successfully carried on by private gentlemen in various parts of Malabar. The Provincial Committee was good enough to promise an allotment equal to the amount of local subscriptions that we should be able to collect for local relief. This condition proved a very strong incentive to the collection of local subscriptions, and the appeal for such subscriptions was cordially and readily responded to by the public of Malabar. Allotments were made from time to time to the Revenue Divisional Officers of the district, who kindly undertook to administer the funds. It was left to the Divisional Officer to decide what portion of the moneys placed at his disposal should be allotted by him to the different centres in his Division that appeared to require relief. He was requested to act in consultation with the Famine Sub-Committees of his Division. The actual granting of relief was entrusted by the Divisional Officers to Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Sub-Registrars, Medical Officers, Municipal Chairmen, and in some cases to merchants and other private gentlemen.

The relief granted was mostly in the shape of cooked food-doles or rice-doles once a day. This form of relief was found to be the most suited and served to improve the health of the district. As a rule, tickets were issued to the old, the infirm, and the poor, and rice or cooked food was distributed by other gentlemen to the ticket-holders on the production of their tickets. Sanitary Inspectors were empowered to issue tickets to the poor in cholera-stricken houses, and Medical officers were empowered to issue tickets to out-patients who were found to be suffering from the effects of starvation. When the Committee's operations were begun in British Cochin, there was at first a rush of the poor from the Native State of Cochin. A representation was at once made to the Dewan, with the result that he arranged for the granting of relief in His Highness's Dominions also.

Cheap grain shops were started in British Cochin and maintained for two months from subscriptions specially collected for the purpose; and rice was sold to the workmen at a rupee per bag less than the market price.

The only other form of relief granted in Malabar was in the shape of relief works in Ernad and Cochin. The work consisted in the construction of a new road in Cochin and another in Ernad and the repair of four old roads. The materials for the new road were supplied *gratis* by the Vicar-General of Cochin out of the ruins of a church that had fallen. The materials for the repair of the old roads were dug up by the coolies employed; no materials were purchased, while some of the materials dug up but unused were sold and the proceeds placed to the credit of the Famine Fund. The pressure on the Famine Fund was to a certain extent lightened by the utilization of the budget allotment of some of the Municipalities and Taluk Boards for the repair and construction of roads.

As a rule, no money-doles for the purchase of food were granted. In certain places, the rice-doles were supplemented by small money-doles of one, two, or three pies for the purchase of condiments.

In most places, the granting of relief ceased with the close of September, while in a few places,

it continued till the middle or the close of October. In Wynaad, for instance, it was not possible to close operations earlier than the 31st of October, as the harvesting season does not commence in that taluk before November.

Calculating as a single unit every individual relieved, whether for a single day or for months, it is found that relief has been granted to 33,906 individuals. The number of individuals in receipt of relief began with 450 in June, rose to 2,000 early in July, and to 5,499 about the end of July; the number rose to 7,600 in August, and reached the maximum, 19,746, about the close of August. The price of rice had meanwhile gradually risen from 9'13 seers per rupee in June, to 8'49 seers and 7'98 seers in July and to 7'35 seers about the end of August. Prices began to fall early in September, declining from 7'59 to 8'71 seers in September, and to 9'58 seers about the end of October. The numbers in receipt of relief accordingly fell to 13,205 early in September, and to 7,676 about the end of that month, and declined in October to 5,009 and finally to 444.

It was not deemed necessary to elect an Honorary Accountant, as suggested in the Central Committee's Circular X Q, as the Honorary Secretary of the District Committee undertook to be in charge of the accounts and the statistics, as well of the correspondence and the general management.

The Committee cannot conclude this report of their work without thankfully acknowledging the ready and sympathetic support of Mr. G. W. Dance, the Collector, who not only recognised the necessity for relief even before the District Committee formally applied to the Madras Committee for an allotment, but himself started relief operations from local subscriptions in portions of Ponnani taluk. While leaving the control in our hands, he cheerfully placed the services of his subordinates at our disposal for administering our funds. We are thankful to acknowledge that he neither kept aloof nor so much as desired to fetter our free action.

We also wish to place on record our appreciation of the indefatigable energy and industry displayed by our Secretary Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar, B.A., L.T., A.S.A.A., who devoted his few leisure hours to the administration of this Fund.

FORM B.

STATEMENT showing details of relief operations from

Number of persons relieved,

OBJECT I.		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavari.	Bellary.
A.—CLOTHING, BLANKETS, ETC., TO PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF, WHETHER IN POOR-HOUSES, KITCHENS, OR OUTSIDE.					
(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given:—					
(a) the articles being sent from England	No.	...	...	...	566
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee	"	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	"	2,445	879	373	6,188
Total number of persons		2,445	879	373	6,754
NOTE.—					
(1) expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (c) above	R	1,548 9 6	531 0 0	233 4 6	10,304 13 10
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	"	...	...	100 0 0	8,411 2 0
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers	"	...	...	133 4 6	82 14 0
(4) how much in buying from large cloth-dealers	"	...	...	...	1,810 13 10
B.—OTHER EXPENDITURE IN POOR-HOUSES OR KITCHENS.					
(ii) provision of "comforts" in Government poor-houses—					
(a) cost of milk-supply	R	...	...	...	...
(b) purchase of lime juice and other comforts	"	...	...	...	...
(c) money distributed for purchase of additional food	"	...	...	...	...
(d) other expenditure (with details)— castor oil, vegetables, etc.	"	...	...	...	...
TOTAL		...	...	...	...
C.—OTHER EXPENDITURE ON PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF OUTSIDE POOR-HOUSES.					
(ii) Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief—					
(a) Total amount so expended	R	...	...	...	...
(b) Period during which it was expended	Days.	...	...	...	...
(c) Total number of payments made	No.	...	...	...	...
(d) Average number per month or fortnight (according as the dole was monthly or fortnightly) of persons whose dole was increased	"	...	...	...	...
(iii) providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works—					
(a) Total amount so expended	R	...	...	...	...
D.—OTHER RELIEF UNDER HEADING "OBJECT I"—such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief Works or to their own villages. Grants made to poor people out of relief officers' imprests.					
Workers prevented by sickness from attending Relief Works, grants to persons before admission on works or Government grain doles, and to mothers with infants and sick children on Relief Works.	Period of expenditure . Days. Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	... ... ...	... ... ...	15th Sept. to 31st Oct. 6,914 10 6 2,302	3 to 6 months. 1,534 0 0 2,931
TOTAL UNDER OBJECT I		...	...	...	...
OBJECT II.					
Conveyance of orphans to their homes.	Period of expenditure . Days. Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	... ... ...	... ... ...	... ... ...	... ... ...
Money doles	Period of expenditure . Days. Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	... ... ...	{ Two fortnights 44 8 7 159 }	... ... ...	... ... ...
(ii) number of orphans to whom clothes were given—					
(a) the articles being sent from England	No.	...	...	...	...
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee	"	...	...	...	...

B.

PRESIDENCY.

the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

printed in antique type. .

Cuddapah.	Anantapur.	Kurnul.	Malabar.	Total.	REMARKS.
...	18	572	...	1,156	
...	
...	1,127	1,452	...	12,464	
...	1,145	2,024	...	13,620	
...	1 032 4 0	1,849 1 9	...	15,499 1 7	
...	265 13 5	...	...	...
...	542 15 7	...	...	...
...	223 7 0	...	...	...
976 13 4	...	...	...	976 13 4	
976 13 4	...	...	...	976 13 4	
...	57 7 8 2 days to 2 months 9	7,461 13 6 5 mons. & 20 days 12	...	7,519 5 2	
...	835	2,220	...	3,055	
...	
...	
...	...	...	...	8,448 10 6	
...	...	...	...	5,233	
...	...	...	...	36,236 2 2	
...	... 15 0 0 2 Bengali orphans	...	...	... 15 0 0 2	
...	...	...	...	Two fortnights 44 8 7 159	
...	
...	

	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavari.	Bellary.
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committee or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee. R	...	39	...	...
Amount expended . . . . .	...	9 15 0	...	...
TOTAL UNDER OBJECT II . . . . .	...	...	...	...
OBJECT III.				
A.—SUPPLY OF CLOTHING TO RESPECTABLE POOR, NOT IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF.				
(i) Number of persons to whom articles of clothing were given—				
(a) the articles being sent from England No.	...	...	...	...
(b) ditto provided by the Provincial Committee . . . . .	...	...	...	...
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee . . . . .	...	768	..	...
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS . . . . .	...	768	...	...
NOTE.—				
(i) expenditure incurred under (c) above R	...	717 15 2	...	...
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers . . . . .	...	...	...	...
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers . . . . .	...	717 15 2	...	...
(4) how much from large cloth-dealers . . . . .	...	...	...	...
(ii) number of persons, if any to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing No.	...	986	...	...
Amount to be given R	...	636 14 0	...	...
C.—GRAIN OR COOKED FOOD DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR—				
(i) period during which this relief was given . . . . .	...	3 months	...	...
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles No.	...	2,503	...	...
(iii) rates of the doles . . . . .	...	1½ seer for adults and ¾ for juveniles.	...	...
(iv) at what intervals given . . . . .	...	Once a week.	...	...
(v) amount expended R	...	546 7 0	...	...
D.—MONEY DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD—				
(i) period during which this relief was given	30th May to 31st October.	Average of 5 months.	...	6 to 7 months.
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles No.	29,404	72,181	...	3,727
(iii) rates of the doles	1½ anna for adults and ¾ to 1 anna for children subject to a maximum of Rs 5 a month to a family.	6 annas adults and 4 annas juveniles.	...	...
(iv) at what intervals given	Some a week; some a fortnight and others monthly.	Once a week	...	...
(v) amount expended R	13,745 2 2	25,486 14 6	...	7,008 15 7
E.—CHEAP GRAIN-SHOPS—				
(1) Number and localities of grain-shops No.	...	...	8	...
(2) Period during which relief was given . . . . .	...	...	1st May to 10th October.	...
(3) Net amount expended from the Fund during that period R	...	...	5,146 15 6	...

Cuddapah.	Anantapur.	Kurnul.	Malabar.	Total.	REMARKS.
...	...	...	...	9	
...	...	...	...	9 15 0	
...	...	...	...	356 7 7	
...	6	...	...	6	
302	...	...	...	302	
7,991	11	411	...	9,121	
8,293	17	411	...	9,489	
7,635 2 4	...	435 1 5	...	8,788 2 11	
...	
...	...	435 1 5	...	...
...	
...	8	...	...	994	
...	11 0 0	...	...	647 14 0	
...	4 days in May	60 days	15th June to 31st October, from 3 months at some centres to 14 weeks at others.	...	
...	32	1,500	32,084	36,119	
...	11½ pies for adults and half for children.	...	As a rule 12 ounces.		Smallest dole ½, largest ¾ of a seer of 80 tolahs. The grain doles were in some centres supplemented by money doles of 1, 2, or 3 pies for the purchase of salt and so forth.
...	4 days consecutively.	Daily	Once a day	...	
...	5 13 11	1,162 9 4	19,189 3 0	20,904 1 7	
1 to 6 months	May and June	3 to 5 months	A week at one centre and two at another.	...	
12,416	5,225	- 66	20 families that suffered cholera.	123,019 plus 20 families in Malabar.	
1½ anna an adult and 9 pies children subject to ¾ rates when more than two in a family.	Vide foot-note	R 2 to 10 a month	1½ to 1¼ anna	...	
Daily at first and bi-weekly afterwards.	Between 10 to 30 days.	Monthly	Once a day	...	
19,632 1 6	5,438 2 3 of which 1,580-13-8 distributed in kind.	1,924 6 1 plus 1,000 0 0 spent in the Bhagana-patie State.*	13 2 0 The money doles were replaced by grain when the District Committee heard of the money doles.	74,248 12 1	* As follows:—
...	...	...	3	11	
...	...	...	September and October.		
...	...	...	636 4 6	5,783 4 0	

* R 1 to 5 were granted, and in some others 10 and 15 days' subsistence was given.

Cloth	351 persons	R	a.	p.
Money doles	620 "	497	10	3
Contingencies	"	497	1	6
			5	4
			3	

	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavari.	Bellary.
(4) Excess of privileged rate over market rate (in seers or lbs. per rupee)	...	...	4 seers min. 8 " max.	...
(5) Average number of persons relieved during each month of the period	...	...	58,540	...
F.—OTHER RELIEF UNDER HEADING "OBJECT III"—				
(a) Railway fare to travellers.	{ Period of expenditure . Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	...	...	...
(b) Conveying sick to Hospital.	{ Period of expenditure . Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	...	...	...
(c) Accouchement expenses	{ Period of expenditure . Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	...	...	...
(d) Construction of a road with materials supplied by a private gentleman, and repairs of old roads with materials dug up in Cochin.	{ Period of expenditure . Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	...	...	...
(e) Construction of a road in Ernad.	{ Period of expenditure . Amount of expenditure . R Number of persons relieved No.	...	...	...
TOTAL UNDER OBJECT III	...	...	...	...
OBJECT IV.				
A.—PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT TO PROFESSIONAL WORKMEN.				
(i) Assistance in providing materials for work to be sold by the workers—				
(a) nature of employment assisted				
(b) number of people supplied with materials	No.			
(c) cost of such materials	R			
(d) number of people who received money gifts	No.			
(e) amount of such gifts	R	...	...	...
		142 12 0	...	...
B.—ASSISTANCE TOWARDS REBUILDING OR REPAIRING OF HOUSES.				
(i) number of people assisted	No.			
(ii) causes of destruction of houses (fire, want, etc.)				
(iii) amount expended	R	...	...	...
	
	
C.—ASSISTANCE WHERE ONLY MONEY GRANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PROVISION OF CATTLE, SEED-GRAIN, ETC., TO CULTIVATORS—				
(i) number of cultivators assisted—	No.	12,479	50,135	1,352
(ii) (roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone	"	7	3,336	1
ditto ditto of seed-grain alone	"	12,472	35,336	1,351
ditto for fodder subsistence of cattle alone	"	...	...	...
ditto ditto cultivator and family alone	"	...	...	...
ditto wages to labourers alone	"	...	503	...
ditto for more than one of the above objects	"	...	10,906	...
		...	54	...
(iii) amount of gifts made	R	42,427 6 0	1,04,873 8 6	2,781 12 0
(iv) (roughly) how much for purchase of cattle	"	54 0 0	22,635 0 0	12 0 0
ditto ditto seed-grain	"	42,373 6 0	60,559 3 0	2,769 12 0
ditto ditto subsistence of cattle	"	...	...	...
ditto ditto cultivator and family	"	...	...	...
ditto wages to labourers	"	...	504 0 0	...
ditto for more than one of the above objects	"	...	21,011 13 6	...
Unclassified expenditure under this head	"	...	163 8 0	...
	

Cuddapah.	Anantapur.	Karnul.	Malabar.	Total.	REMARKS.
...	...	...	In seers of 80 tolas per rupee. One rupee per bag cheaper than the market rate, min. 84 max. 103. September 1,465 October 128	...	
...	...	...	...	60,133	
...	May to July 14 4 0	...	...	Expenditure— 1,143 10 8	
...	July 1 0 0	...	...
...	July and August 4 5 1	...	...	Number of persons relieved— 347	
...	1	...	...
...	...	...	26th August to 2nd October.		
...	...	...	884 1 7 281		
...	...	...	20th September to 13th October.		
...	...	...	240 0 0 56		
...	...	...	...	1,14,635 10 3	
...		
...	...	...	...	71 142 12 0	
...	...	33 Fire	...	291	
...	...	99 0 0	...	817 6 0	
8,977	21,666	8,426	...	1,41,429	
...	2,701	1,111	...	...
...	14,677	1,723	...	...
...	...	85	...	...
...	
...	4,288	...	...	...
1,41,870 0 0	1,73,688 11 0	81,840 13 9	...	6,75,469 1 3	
...	44,858 0 0	20,327 0 0	...	...
...	76,193 3 0	63,972 6 4	...	...
...	...	541 7 5	...	...
...	
...	52,637 8 0	...	...	...
...	1,087 7 4	...	...	1,087 7 4	
...	

	Canjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavari.	Bellary.
D.—ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS BY GRANTS IN KIND—				
(ii) SEED—				
(i) Quantity of seed purchased No.	...	...	...	...
(ii) Price of ditto R	...	...	...	...
(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed No.	...	...	...	...
(iii) FODDER—				
(a) Net expenditure on fodder bought from Government and sold at cheap rates or given away R	...	...	...	...
(b) Net expenditure on fodder received from Provincial Committee or locally purchased and sold at cheap rates or given away . . . . . "	...	...	...	...
F.—OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER HEADING "OBJECT IV"—				
Valedictory { Period of expenditure	October . . . . .	...	...	October
{ Amount of expenditure R	364 0 0	...	...	82,320 11 0
{ Number of persons relieved No.	22	...	...	4,000
TOTAL UNDER OBJECT IV.				

Object V. Miscellaneous	Establishment R	218 3 11	8 15 2	...
	Postage "	53 12 6	49 2 6	...
	Telegrams "	37 12 0	38 4 0	...
	Office and contingent expenditure "	25 3 3	45 0 7	...
	Printing "	39 12 7	24 10 0	...
	Stationery "	30 2 8	38 10 4	...
TOTAL				
	404 14 11	204 10 7	...	262 11 8
TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS				

Cuddapah.	Anantapur.	Kurnul.	Malabar.	Total.	REMARKS.
...	475 seers Cholam at seers 9½ per rupee	Exclusive of Bellary and Anantapur.
...	50 0 0	...	...	50 0 0
...	36	...	...	36
...	
...	782 8 6	...	...	782 8 6
...	July, August and October	October	...	...
...	661 0 0	183 0 0	...	83,528 11 0	
...	155	44	...	4,221	
...	...	...	...	11,27,997 3 6
613 0 0	...	324 1 5	...	1,300 13 9	
104 8 3	...	42 12 6	...	263 13 9	
56 9 0	...	23 14 0	...	159 5 0	
87 7 5	98 8 2	16 3 9	265 12 2	561 1 4	
381 1 5	5 9 0	97 1 8	18 7 0	653 6 1	
95 9 2	...	38 0 3	53 4 4	255 10 9	
1,338 3 3	104 1 2	542 1 7	337 7 6	3,194 2 8	
...	...	...	...	12,82,419 10 2
AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR WHICH STATISTICS WERE NOT KEPT				74,583 2 7	
GRAND TOTAL				13,57,002 12 9	

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,
Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF MADRAS,

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 15th December, 1897.

Receipts.		Amount.	
R	a. p.	R	a. p.
1. Opening Balance— Former Famine Fund money	11,475	10 3
2. Remittances from Central Committee— (a) From General Fund	12,64,583	0 0
(b) "Ear-marked" for the Province	294	8 0
3. Local subscriptions for the Province— (a) Collected by the Provincial Committee	52,226	13 4
Remitted to the "	1,79,715	14 5
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use (vide Form D, column 2)	14,584	9 2
(c) District Committees' receipts appropriated for collection charges	946	7 11
(d) District Committees' receipts unremitted to Provin- cial Committee	2,631	8 3
4. Other receipts— (a) Provincial Committee	3	1 6
(b) District Committees (vide Form D, column 4)	154	12 11
TOTAL R		15,26,616	5 9

Expenditure.		Amount.	
R	a. p.	R	a. p.
1. Under Object I	36,236	2 2
2. Ditto II	356	7 7
3. Ditto III	1,14,635	10 3
4. Ditto IV		
(a) By District Committees (vide Form E, column 4) (b) By Provincial Committee (Todder)	11,27,996	10 10
		71,438	11 4
5. Miscellaneous— (a) Provincial Committee	2,149	11 7
(b) District Committees (vide Form E, column 5)	4,189	7 0
6. Closing Balances— (a) With Provincial Committee	26,422	13 0
Reserved for Anantapur and Orphans	70,000	0 0
Outstandings recoverable	15,668	6 10
(b) With District Committees (vide Form E, column 7)		1,12,091	3 10
		57,522	5 2
TOTAL R		15,26,616	5 9

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,

Honorary Secretary,

Madras Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.**INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.****PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF MADRAS.**

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 15th December 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening Balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fndd Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Ganjam . . . .	...	...	63,250 0 0	...	63,250 0 0
2	Vizagapatam . . . .	...	...	1,43,163 8 0	...	1,43,163 8 0
3	Godavari . . . .	...	162 0 0	18,000 0 0	...	18,162 0 0
4	Bellary . . . .	...	...	3,70,500 0 0	...	3,70,500 0 0
5	Cuddapah . . . .	...	...	3,06,500 0 0	...	3,06,500 0 0
6	Anantapur . . . .	...	4 0 0	1,93,000 0 0	6 0 0	1,93,010 0 0
7	Kurnool . . . .	...	...	2,22,700 0 0	8 0 6	2,22,708 0 6
8	Malabar . . . .	...	14,418 9 2	8,500 0 0	140 12 5	23,059 5 7
	TOTALS R .	...	14,584 9 2	13,25,613 8 0	154 12 11	13,40,352 14 1

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,

Honorary Secretary,

Madras Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM E.**INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.****PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF MADRAS.**

Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 15th December 1897.

PAYMENTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
		Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balances.	TOTAL.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Ganjam	1,615 1 6	...	14,387 12 2	43,081 0 0	447 11 4	59,531 9 0	3,718 7 0	63,250 0 0
2	Vizagapatam	531 0 0	341 7 7	29,760 3 0	1,11,447 10 6	210 10 7	1,42,290 15 8	872 8 4	1,43,163 8 0
3	Godavari	9,773 4 10	...	5,146 15 6	2,781 12 0	...	17,762 0 4	459 15 8	18,162 0 0
4	Bellary	11,957 1 2	...	7,008 15 7	3,30,900 8 3	262 11 8	3,50,129 4 8	20,370 11 4	3,70,500 0 0
5	Cuddapah	976 13 4	...	27,337 8 10	2,70,425 0 0	1,338 3 3	3,00,077 9 5	6,422 6 7	3,06,500 0 0
6	Anantapur	1,624 0 0	15 0 0	5,509 7 3	1,83,568 15 11	104 1 2	1,90,821 8 4	2,188 7 8	1,93,010 0 0
7	Kurnool	9,758 13 4	...	4,522 0 10	1,85,791 12 2	542 1 7	2,00,614 11 11	22,093 4 7	2,22,708 0 6
8	Malabar . . . .	...	...	20,962 11 1	...	337 7 6	21,300 2 7	1,759 3 0	23,059 5 7
	TOTALS . R	36,236 2 2	356 7 7	1,14,635 10 3	11,27,996 10 10	†3,242 15 1	12,82,467 13 11	*57,885 0 2	13,40,352 14 1

* Rupees 362-11-0 of this amount having been remitted to the Provincial Committee, the total district balances should be reckoned as Rs 57,522-5-2
† In addition to this amount the sum of Rs 16-7-11 was expended by various non-working Committees in the Madras Presidency in the collection of subscriptions.

HENRY BEAUCHAMP,

Honorary Secretary,

Madras Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF MADRAS.

Final Balance Sheet.

RECEIPTS.		Amount.		Expenditure.		Amount.	
	R	a p.	R	a. p.		R	a. p.
1. Opening Balance on 1st November 1897 —							
(a) With Provincial Committee	26,422	13 0			1. Under Object I	.....	113 4 2
Reserved for Anantapur and Orphans	70,000	0 0			2. Do. do. II	139 2 0	
Outstandings recoverable	15,668	6 10			Alloiment for maintenance of orphans	20,000 0 0	20,139 2 0
(b) With District Committees	1,12,091	3 10			3. Under Object III	.....	2,499 1 9
	57,522	5 2			4. Do. do. IV—		
2. Receipts from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898.					By District Committees	39,054 12 10	
(a) Remittances from Central Committee—					By Provincial Committee (Fodder)	5,598 6 10	44,553 3 8
From General Fund	...		33,045 11 4				
(b) Subscriptions for General Fund received in Madras.			7 7 0		5. Miscellaneous—		
(c) Collected directly by Provincial Committee	20,134	0 0			By District Committees	254 15 7	
(d) Remitted to do. by the District Committees	3,024	13 4			Do. for collection of subscriptions	397 0 4	
(e) Appropriated by District Committees for collection charges	393	6 4			" Provincial Committee	353 2 3	1,005 2 2
(f) Unremitted by do.	261	14 2					
(g) Collected by District Committees for their own use.	75	6 0	23,889 7 10		Total Expenditure	.....	68,409 13 9
3. Other receipts (miscellaneous)—							
(a) Sale of 2 copies of Provincial Committee's Report by the Provincial Committee.	1	8 0			(a) With Provincial Committee	95,238 4 6	
(b) Sundry receipts by District Committees	2	7 0	3 15 0		(b) With District Committees	60,717 0 7	
					(c) Unremitted amount of subscriptions	2,099 10 1	
					(d) Fodder sales outstanding	50 5 3	
					(e) Advances repayable	45 0 0	1,58,150 4 5
TOTAL R			2,26,560 2 2		TOTAL R		2,26,560 2 2

HENRY BEAUCHAMP, IAMP, Cornwall

FROM

D. P. MASSON, ESQUIRE,

AND

C. H. ATKINS, ESQUIRE,

*Joint Honorary Secretaries,**Punjab Executive Committee, Indian Famine**Charitable Relief Fund, 1897,**Lahore.*

NAME

1 Ganjam

2 Vizagapa

3 Godavari

4 Bellary

5 Cuddapah

6 Anantapu

7 Kurnool

8 Malabar

TO

THE CHAIRMAN,

*Punjab Executive Committee, Indian Famine**Charitable Relief Fund, 1897,**Lahore.**Dated Lahore, January 1898.*

SIR,

We have the honour to submit our Report on the working of the Punjab Executive Committee up to the end of October 1897. This has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Central Committee's Circular No. X. Q., dated 16th September 1897.

The Report has been delayed by non-receipt of reports from several District Committees. We have thought it advisable to print the Report in order that copies may be circulated to the members of the Committee before it comes before them for formal consideration. The Report consists of three parts: the first, introductory; the second, dealing with the working of the Provincial Committee; and the third, with the working of the Local Committees appointed in connection with, or affiliated to, the Provincial Committee.

Statement The minutes of our Committee's meetings, and the statements, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Central Committee, will be found as Appendices to this Report.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

D. P. MASSON,

C. H. ATKINS,

Joint Honorary Secretaries.

THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

Report to the Chairman by the Joint Honorary Secretaries,
Punjab Executive Committee.

PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.

1. The British Province known as the Punjab is a tract of country comprising an area of a little over one hundred thousand square miles with a population of about 21 million souls. It lies in the extreme north-west of India and is bounded on the north-east, north and north-west by the Himalayas and the Sulimans, on the east by the North-West Provinces, on the south by the Native States, Bahawalpur and the Bikanir.

2. It has a normal cropped area of about 10 million acres in the kharif or autumn harvest, and about 13 millions in the rabi or spring harvest. Of this about 30 per cent. is irrigated. Probably no country of the same extent has the same means of irrigation as the Punjab enjoys in its six large rivers—in fact as now constituted the Punjab derives irrigation from the Jumna also in addition to its own six rivers,—and the numerous canals issuing from them.

3. The irrigation is, however, not equally distributed. Of the six divisions into which the Province is divided, Delhi has 11 per cent. of its cultivated area irrigated, Jullundur has 26 per cent., Lahore 57, Rawalpindi 31, Peshawar 35 and Derajat 41. So that the Delhi Division is very much more dependent on rainfall than any other, and consequently its cultivation is more precarious. The Delhi Division also stands apart from the rest of the Province in that three of its districts, Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon have a much larger normal area under kharif than under rabi crops, whereas in the rest of the Punjab the spring crop is the more important. In Hissar the former is more than double the latter, and therefore Hissar is particularly affected by a failure of the kharif harvest. As two out of the three bad harvests that preceded the time of distress were kharif harvests, the calamity was felt by Hissar more than by any other district.

4. From the reports of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture it appears that the bad harvests, the recurrence of which ended in the famine, began, in the Punjab, in 1895. The spring harvest of 1895 was on the whole a good one. The area cropped was above the normal and the outturn was an average one.

5. The autumn crop was a bad one. The cropped area was 15·5 per cent. below the normal, and the outturn was estimated at 25 per cent. below the average. The Delhi Division, and more especially the Hissar district, suffered most, both because it depends more on the autumn harvest than other districts, and also because it depends most on the rainfall. The area of matured crops in Hissar was estimated at only 30 per cent. of the normal. In almost all districts cattle suffered from want of fodder.

6. The spring crop in 1896 was also bad. The cropped area was 20 per cent. below the normal, and the outturn about 25 per cent. of the normal. This was due to the early cessation of the monsoon rains and also to the failure of the winter rains. The disaster was somewhat mitigated by a great increase of the irrigated area which rose from one-third to one-half of the total cropped area. Again the Delhi Division suffered most for the same reason as before.

7. The autumn crop of 1896 was also bad. The cropped area was 20 per cent. below the average and the total outturn of the Province was about 13 annas, taking 16 annas as the average. The districts which suffered least were those with the least rainfall, *viz.*, Mooltan, Jhang, the Derajat, Bannu and Peshawar, the reason being that these districts are not dependent on the rains, but almost entirely on artificial irrigation. The districts that again suffered

most were those dependent almost entirely on the rainfall, *viz.*, those of the Delhi Division, especially Hissar. In Hissar the area of crops that failed was very large, as an unusually large area had been sown to make up for the deficiency in the two previous harvests. In a considerable part of the Ferozepore district, in which the agricultural conditions are similar to those of Hissar, the failed area was also very large. In the whole Province the Director of Land Records and Agriculture estimates that the total yield of food grain was only 80 per cent. of the average of the previous five years (one of which was a very bad one).

8. In Hissar the yield was about 25 per cent. only. The state of this district had become very bad: the kharif of 1895 and the rabi of 1896 had failed: the kharif of 1896 was still more disastrous. From April to September only five inches of rain fell, the average amount being 14 inches. The irrigated area in this district is only 4 per cent. of the whole, so that there was nothing to mitigate the failure of the rains. Had the district been self-dependent the famine would have been terrible. The fodder famine was already disastrous and the mortality amongst cattle very heavy. Human mortality was not equally great only because of the facilities of transport.

9. The rabi of 1897 was a little worse in point of cropped area than that of 1896, but the outturn per acre was usually good. The monsoon rains of 1896 were very deficient. The fall in July was far below the average, especially in the Delhi and Derajat Divisions and Ferozepore. In August there was a deficiency in almost all districts, and after the 20th August the rain ceased almost entirely.

10. This was disastrous for the spring sowing. The irrigated area was larger even than in 1896 in spite of the fact that the rivers were low and the well cattle had diminished in numbers and were worn out by overwork and want of food. There was a considerable area of wheat sown late in November and in December, in the hill and submontane districts, which received some rain in those months. Such of the area as had been sown bore, as a rule, a good crop owing to the winter rains, which fell in January and continued up to April.

11. The Delhi Division was again unfortunate, receiving only about an inch of rain in the three months. In the Hissar district the cropped area was 25 per cent. of the normal. More than four-fifths of the crops did not come to maturity. The only parts of the Province which had a good harvest were the hill districts of Kangra and Hazara, the new Chenab colony, and the frontier district of Peshawar, Kohat and Bannu. Gurgaon, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Mooltan, Amritsar, Muzaffargarh and the Derajat had average crops, while in the rest of the Province the crops were decidedly below the average.

12. The period of distress continued till the kharif harvest of 1897. The monsoon rains of 1897 were good and the harvest was a good one throughout the Province generally. Present prospects. The price of food grains fell somewhat, and the labouring classes and the respectable poor were relieved. The agriculturists, with the help of Government loans and of gifts from our funds for the purchase of seed and cattle, were able to cultivate their land and reap the benefit. The rabi sowings are reported to be good everywhere, and the state of the crops, thanks to timely rain about the middle of December, is generally good. It is hoped that the distress is over and that the people will soon recover with the elasticity that has been so wonderful after past famines. There can be no doubt that they have been much assisted in the recovery by the free gifts of plough-cattle which have saved them from the necessity of burdening themselves with debt and have enabled many, who were already involved, to tide over the bad time and retain the land with which they must otherwise have parted.

13. In concluding this brief review of the seasons preceding and during the famine, it may be interesting to note the state of prices of wheat, maize and barley, the staple food grains, during the time of acute distress. The normal prices are always a most inconstant quantity, and indeed it is impossible to say what the normal is at any time. Fluctuations of prices.

In 1863, after the famine of 1860-61, wheat averaged 31 sérs per rupee,

maize 42, and barley 49 sérs. But prices thenceforward rose steadily, and in 1869, during the famine of that year, wheat was at 14½ sérs, maize at 18 and barley at 19. They again fell till 1876, when they were at 25, 34 and 37 respectively. They rose again in 1877, the year of the famine in Southern India, and wheat was at 15 sérs in 1880, barley being at 26 sérs. Prices fell till 1886, when the prices of wheat, maize and barley rose to 17, 24 and 34 sérs, respectively, on account of scarcity.

14. It may be interesting to quote the prices of these three grains from 1880 up to the present time, taking the prices prevalent each year in Lahore in the month of April—

Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.
1880 . . .	15	...	26	1889 . . .	19	29	33
1881 . . .	19	...	29	1890 . . .	17	20	25
1882 . . .	23	...	39	1891 . . .	11	12	23
1883 . . .	24	...	48	1892 . . .	14	26	23
1884 . . .	25	32	41	1893 . . .	14	14	23
1885 . . .	24	32	47	1894 . . .	22	38	40
1886 . . .	17	24	34	1895 . . .	20	27	29
1887 . . .	17	15	25	1896 . . .	18	18	24
1888 . . .	17	16	24	1897 . . .	11	10	15

This shows that during the present scarcity prices have been higher than ever before, and were about double the normal prices, though the normal is difficult to ascertain. The highest point was reached in November 1896, when the price of wheat in Lahore was about 8 sérs per rupee, maize 11 sérs and barley 9. This lasted for nearly five months, and relief was not felt till April 1897, when the rabi was harvested. The seriousness of this rise in prices can only be appreciated when it is remembered what vast numbers of people there are in every town and large village earning 4, 5 or 6 rupees a month. A man's daily allowance is about a sér (2 pounds) of flour—hence the expression "*sér ata*"—so that his own food would cost a man Rs. 3, even if he ate the commoner grains. There would remain little for his family, usually a numerous one, and nothing for clothes and other things usually regarded as necessities.

15. To understand the effects of the scarcity of the people of the Punjab, it is necessary to refer briefly to the economic conditions of the Province. It is divided into 31 districts, each of which is sub-divided into sub-collectorates or tahsils. The administrative unit is the district, containing an average population of about 84,000, and at the head of each district is a Deputy Commissioner, usually a British Officer, with a number of Assistants, British and Indian. Of a population of 21 millions as shown in the census of 1891, rather less than 12 per cent. was urban (*i.e.*, living in towns of 5,000 inhabitants and upwards) and over 88 per cent. rural. For the most part the land is in the hands of small peasant proprietors, on the whole a sturdy people, from whom the Native army is recruited and who form the backbone of the Province.

16. There is also a large body of tenants possessing a right of occupancy and thus enjoying many of the rights of owners. Having in their land an excellent security they are always able to borrow money on it, and so long as they do not part with it, are not, unless a famine be very protracted, in danger of starvation themselves. Moreover, since, as stated above, 88 per cent. of the population lives in small villages, a large proportion of the rural population not itself agricultural is also protected by the nature of the constitution of the Punjab village from actual death by famine, so long as the village itself continues to exist. The existence of the village depends on the existence of all its various units, its labourers, its menials, its weavers, its shoe-maker and its carpenter.

17. For these reasons the rural population did not run any great danger of actual starvation. But the peasant proprietors suffered very severely in two ways: firstly, from the causes of distress amongst zamindars.

fodder famine which was very serious and entailed the death of countless numbers of well and plough-cattle—in Hissar, where a careful enquiry was made, it is estimated that over 50 per cent. of the cattle perished—and, secondly, by the exhaustion of their capital in other ways—their seed grain had either been sown and had not ripened or had been used up as food, their capital stock of grain or money had been spent in buying food and other necessities, their land was passing into the hands of the money-lender, and, had relief not been furnished, both in the shape of Government loans and still more by the charitable relief we were able to give them, thousands of these sturdy peasants must have ceased to exist as owners of the land, and have descended to the status of mere tenants-at-will or of labourers. A great calamity has been very largely averted by the timely relief afforded by the generosity of subscribers in England and elsewhere.

18. The other class of people who suffered from the famine and were brought to the verge—some beyond the verge—of starvation, were the poor of the towns and large villages. The *parda* still reigns in the Punjab amongst all the better castes of all religions, and one large class of distressed, and the one most difficult to reach, was the “*parda*-women”, widows or deserted wives. The only way of reaching these was through respectable native gentlemen and through missionary ladies. The only way of finding out the distress was a house-to-house visitation, or at least a personal visit to the bazaars where the women lived. They preferred to sit in their houses and die in silence rather than go forth and beg for help or even make their need known. Even when found their superstition was so great that they refused to accept many kinds of relief. The clothing sent to them was in many cases refused, lest the gift might cover some attack on their *issat* (i.e., good name) or their religion. Other women not shut in by the *parda* were still too proud to accept the help offered them by Government in the shape of wages for work done on relief works or free maintenance in poor-houses. Others were incapacitated by sickness, by age, by religious prejudice, from availing themselves of these forms of relief.

19. There were men too the blind, the lame, the sick, who were unable to earn a living and too proud to accept the relief offered them by Government in the shape of the poor-house.

The respectable poor.

20. All these it was the task of our Local Committees to relieve, and the task was undertaken and carried through in a way that reflects credit on hundreds of our helpers throughout the Province.

21. Another class that felt the distress bitterly was one that must always deserve and, we hope, obtain much sympathy; the large class of pensioners who have served in our Native army and gone to their homes with a pension on just enough, perhaps, in ordinary times, for a bare subsistence, but when prices rose as they have risen, quite insufficient for even this. These and others on small fixed incomes who must otherwise have died by hundreds, of starvation or from pneumonia and other ills—the results of semi-starvation,—were enabled by our funds to obtain good grain cheaper than the market rate and thus to live through the hard time.

Pensioners.

22. A much larger class that was reduced to destitution was that of the daily labourers and the artisans in large towns. These were all thrown out of employment. For the unskilled labourers Government was able to find work by starting relief works. Other relief works were started by Municipal bodies. At these the men could obtain work and they were only helped from the charitable fund in so far that they were able to purchase food at a little less than the market price, the loss being met from our fund.

Labourers and artisans.

23. For the artisans who were unable to avail themselves of the Government help, as they were unfit for rough unskilled labour, relief was undertaken in several large towns, Amritsar, Delhi, Ludhiana, by advancing them the materials for their own work and buying from them the articles produced. This was only anticipating the demand which was sure to revive after the famine. The goods manufactured could subsequently be sold, and the actual net cost of this kind of relief was very small compared with the benefit that accrued.

24. Before this Committee, or the Central Committee of which it is a branch, came into existence to organise the distribution of Charitable Relief and especially of the money received from subscribers outside India, a great amount of good work had been spontaneously started in a very large number of districts and towns in the Punjab.

25. There had been local meetings at which subscriptions had been raised, usually for the relief of the respectable poor, and these were being in many cases expended, and it would seem most profitably expended, in enabling people to obtain food at rates more favourable than those prevailing in the market. In the Ferozepore district notably, a great deal of money was subscribed in villages mostly in the Moga tahsil, which was most distressed. The Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Montgomery, himself explained to the people the advantage of helping themselves in this way. They were left entirely free to spend the money collected as they liked so long as it was spent in such ways as would give real relief to the destitute. In almost every case in that district the money was spent in enlarging village tanks, and thus means were afforded of earning some money.

26. The accounts of the money subscribed in these villages and the works undertaken were usually under the general direction of the Tahsildars, but otherwise remained in the hands of the people themselves. These local works, such as the digging of tanks, were very popular in other districts too as many could work on them who could not leave their village to work on larger relief works.

27. It is difficult to say how much was locally subscribed before this Committee came into existence, but from the amount subsequently brought into our accounts it appears that there was at least a lakh of rupees. The large amounts that had been subscribed among the people themselves for the relief of their destitute may be taken as a proof of the reality of the distress. It was especially large for a Province like the Punjab, where there are very few large towns and very few wealthy men.

28. All the Local Committees, with one or two exceptions, agreed to affiliate themselves with our Committee, and, so far as could be, their subscriptions were brought into our accounts. Where Local Committees had not previously existed, they were at once formed. There were very few cases in which our Committee was unable to approve the work that had already been going on, and, as a rule, the Local Committees already in existence were found to be working on lines that came easily within those laid down for us by the Central Committee.

29. As to the work done in individual districts more will be said later, but it may here be remarked that in no case has there been any friction between Local Committees and ourselves. We have invariably found suggestions and advice received in a most cordial spirit, and from the knowledge gained of the working in some districts useful hints have occurred to us which have been communicated to others. We would wish to record our sense of obligation to all district officers for the way in which they have co-operated with us, and to the Commissioners of Divisions for the useful advice and information they have afforded.

PART II.—THE PUNJAB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

30. The Punjab Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund came into existence on the 6th February 1897, when a public meeting was held in the Montgomery Hall, Lahore, for the purpose of electing the Committee for the administration of charitable relief. The proceedings of the meeting will be found printed as Appendix A to this Report. A Committee of some one hundred and sixty members was appointed which met on the 8th February and elected an Executive Committee of twenty-six members, to whom others were subsequently added. The Committee met 14 times up to the end of the year 1897, and the minutes of its meetings will also be found in Appendix A.

Objects of the Committee. 31. The objects that the Committee placed before itself were—

- (1) the collection of subscriptions in this Province;
- (2) the receipt of monies allotted for this Province by the Central Committee at Calcutta from the amounts received from England;
- (3) the distribution of these monies.

The objects for which charitable relief might be given had already been discussed by the Governor-General in Council in his letter No. 64 of 23rd December 1896, addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India. In that letter it was explained that certain duties and responsibilities were undertaken by the Government as its own, and in those it was inexpedient that private charity should interfere.

The maintenance of life Government regarded as its own duty, but its duty extended little farther than this, and a wide field still remained for the exercise of private charity in mitigating distress short of actual starvation and in helping the people to struggle through it and recover from its effects.

32. The objects which were adopted by our Committee as legitimate objects to which charitable relief might be devoted were—

- (1) the supplementing of the subsistence ration supplied by Government, by the addition of small comforts;
- (2) the maintenance of orphans;
- (3) the relief of poor but respectable persons who cannot be reached by Government officials;
- (4) the restoration to their original position of those who have been reduced to straits by the long period of distress.

These were the objects mentioned in the letter of the Governor-General already quoted.

33. To carry them out it was necessary that Local Committees should be formed to undertake the actual distribution of funds allotted by the Provincial Committee to each locality. Accordingly, on the 11th February, a meeting of the Executive Committee was held. Sir William Rattigan was appointed Chairman, and Mr. D. P. Masson as Secretary, with Mr. C. H. Atkins as Joint Secretary. A Sub-Committee was appointed to ascertain what Local Committees were already in existence and what they proposed with a view to co-operation with the Provincial Committee.

34. The district was treated as the unit, and a circular letter was issued by the Sub-Committee to all Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab acquainting them with the action taken and inviting their co-operation in the formation of Local Committees and in the control of the detailed administration of the relief funds. The Local Committees were required to co-operate with the Provincial and Central Committees, and also—

- (1) to collect subscriptions;
- (2) to prepare estimates of the amount required for charitable relief for each of the four objects detailed above, and

(3) to administer the funds placed at their disposal by the Provincial Committee.

35. As an estimate of the requirements of the Province had been urgently called for by the Central Committee and the Requirements of the Province considered. estimates from districts could not be awaited, the meeting of the Executive Committee of the 11th February framed the following rough estimate which was telegraphed to Calcutta :—

Rs 1,00,000 under head I, *i.e.*, for the supplementing of the bare subsistence ration provided by Government and the providing of comforts for the sick and helpless.

„ 1,00,000 under head II, *i.e.*, for the maintenance of orphans.

„ 3,00,000 under head III, *i.e.*, for the relief of the respectable poor who will not accept the relief offered by Government, and who, from their circumstances, cannot support themselves on relief works or otherwise.

„ 6,00,000 under head IV, *i.e.*, for the restoration of those who have suffered from the famine and in giving them a fresh start.

36. It was felt that the greatest need would be under heads III and IV. It has been shown above what were the classes of people who most needed relief, and these were the people who came under heads III and IV. For them 9 lakhs were asked for out of 11 lakhs in all. At the time of framing this estimate the Provincial Committee had extremely little data upon which to proceed, and it was not known even approximately what amount of money would be received from England.

37. At the same meeting of the 11th February it was decided that the Bank of Bengal should be appointed Bankers to the fund, and that the local Banks should be asked to receive subscriptions to the fund. Subscription lists were circulated by the Secretaries to Members of the Provincial Committee, to District Officers, to Regimental Messes, Banks, Breweries and other institutions. Subscriptions were acknowledged from time to time in the newspapers.

38. A second meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the 16th February, and approved of the action of the Sub-Committee. Simple rules of business were passed and some names added to the Committee. It was resolved to print the Committee's proceedings and to send copies to the Central Committee, to Local Committees and to the Nawab of Loharu who was taking a great interest in the work and practically represented the Punjab on the Central Committee.

39. It was resolved to send 300 blankets for distribution on the relief works then in progress on the Jhelum and Ghaggar Canals.

40. Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S., C.S.I., undertook to prepare proposals for affording relief to destitute agriculturists by the replacement of their cattle and seed lost through the famine.

41. On the 27th February, estimates of their requirements having been received from some districts, a third meeting of the Executive Committee was held to consider them. Consideration of estimates submitted by Local Committees. The Committee came to the conclusion that 15 districts would probably need relief, *viz.* :—

Hissar.	Umballa.	Gujranwala.
Rohtak.	Ferozepore.	Shahpur.
Gurgaon.	Mooltan.	Jhelum.
Karnal.	Gujrat.	Rawalpindi.
Delhi.	Lahore.	Amritsar.

42. Up to that time Rs 1,15,000 had been received from the Central Committee, and it was not known how much more was likely to be received. The greatest need of the Province was likely to be under head IV, in replacing the vast numbers of plough and well cattle carried off by famine and in saving the peasant class from some of the effects of the distress they had undergone. It did not, therefore, seem advisable to spend a very large part of the money in hand.

43. The estimates received to that date amounted to over 5 lakhs as follows:—

	R
Under head I	89,000
Ditto II	4,400
Ditto III	1,48,000
Ditto IV	2,61,000

Head I had apparently been misunderstood by several Local Committees, and the needs under that head were probably small. Allotments were made under head III only, *viz.*—

First allotments.	R
Delhi	20,000
Karnal	5,000
Umballa	5,000
Mooltan	5,000
Lahore	10,000
Amritsar	5,000
Jhelum	8,000
TOTAL	58,000

44. It was ascertained that much of the relief that had been given before this Committee came into existence had been given by means of the "cheap shop system". The system differed somewhat in detail in different districts, but the principle was the same. An arrangement was made with one or more shops that people holding tickets should receive a certain limited amount of flour at less than the market price, the loss to the shopkeeper being made good from the Charitable Relief Fund. In Peshawar special shops were opened from the subscriptions collected locally, and the Local Committee not only managed the shops but also purchased the grain and ground it themselves.

45. The system commended itself to the Committee as an effective and economical method of relief. At the cost of one rupee, supposing that flour be selling at 8 sérs to the rupee, 72 persons would be enabled to buy a sér each at the rate of 9 sérs. It was therefore resolved to recommend that the system be adopted in districts where it had not been already tried.

46. At the same meeting Rs 300 were given to the Sabathu Leper Asylum, a charitable and non-sectarian institution, which was distressed for want of funds to carry on its work owing to the high prices of food grain.

47. It was resolved to suggest to the Local Committees of Peshawar, Delhi, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Lahore to assist the artisans by getting weaving, embroidery and other work done for sale in England.

48. Another meeting was held on the 16th March, and discussed an application by Captain Dunlop-Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, for a large allotment in order to redeem land sold or mortgaged on account of the famine. The Committee feared that sufficient money would not be obtainable, and referred the matter to the Central Committee. No definite reply was received, but the allotment for this Province was so small as to render futile any hope of being able to carry out Captain Dunlop-Smith's proposal.

49. It was further decided to write to the Central Committee that the original estimate of 11 lakhs was none too much and was all needed. Local Committees were again urged to furnish full reports with details of the famine and of the working of famine relief.

50. The Committee at this meeting considered some correspondence with the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, and resolved that he be given Rs 5,000, but be asked to satisfy them that the expenditure was in accordance with the principles laid down. The Deputy Commissioner appeared to have misunderstood the objects of the fund and to have devoted the money to purposes which Government had undertaken, *viz.*, the maintenance of able-bodied beggars.

51. Other allotments were made to Rohtak (Rs10,000), to Hissar (Rs20,000) and to Gujrat (Rs5,000), but the Local Committee of Gujranwala was requested to reconsider its estimates, which appeared to be based on some misunderstanding.

52. In accordance with the resolution of the meeting a letter was addressed to the Central Committee urging the necessity of our application for 11 lakhs being met in full.

53. On the 30th March the fifth meeting was held to consider an intimation from the Central Committee that two lakhs more, making Rs4,15,000 in all, had been allotted. It was resolved to send a further urgent application for the whole 11 lakhs.

54. Three hundred more blankets were sent to the officer in charge of the Jhelum Canal Famine Relief Works, as the former ones sent had been utilised and much appreciated.

Further allotments.

55. Further allotments were made as follows under head III:—

	R
Lahore	10,000
Delhi	20,000
Ludhiana	15,000
Rohtak	10,000
Amritsar	10,000
Umballa	5,000
Gujrat	5,000
Gurgaon	5,000
Karnal	5,000
Mooltan	5,000
Hissar	4,000
	10,000

and Rs1,000 were given to Lahore to enable men dismissed from relief works to reach their homes.

56. The Local Committee at Ludhiana, of which Rai Karam Chand, District Judge, was the energetic President, wrote suggesting that they should be allowed to try the experiment of giving employment to the skilled weavers and embroiderers of that town who had been thrown out of work. The suggestion was commended by our Committee and was carried out with some success, as will appear from the District Report. This was the last meeting at which Sir W. Rattigan presided, as he was leaving for England. Mr. A. H. S. Reid, Judge, Chief Court, was appointed Chairman in his place.

57. The next (sixth) meeting of the Committee was held on the 13th April to consider reports received from the Districts of Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore, Shahpur, Bannu, Jullundur, Gurgaon, Gujranwala and Montgomery. These announcements that public meetings had been held, Committees formed and subscriptions raised. Details will be found below where the action of each Local Committee may be seen. The Gujranwala Committee had again misunderstood the meaning of head I of the four objects of fund expenditure.

58. On the 18th April the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M. James, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee, paid a visit to Lahore on tour and was met by a Sub-Committee, who gave him all the information available about the needs of the Province.

59. On the 20th April a General Meeting of the Committee was held to receive Mr. James, and the case for the Punjab was stated to him. He promised that it should be carefully reconsidered, and expressed his sympathy with the sturdy peasants who formed an exceptional class in this Province. He emphasized the necessity of completing all preparations for distribution.

60. On the 12th May the eighth meeting of the Committee was held, and a telegram from Calcutta was read announcing that 4 lakhs more had been allotted to the Punjab.

61. Reports from a number of districts were received, but the meeting was adjourned till the 14th, so that Colonel Montgomery, Financial Commissioner, might be present and give his advice as to the allotments to be made to various districts under head IV. Rupees 5,000 more were given to Amritsar for relief of the respectable poor, and Rs 5,000 to Lahore to assist the work of female relief being ably carried on there by Miss Fox and Miss Bose, missionary ladies.

62. On the 14th May the adjourned meeting discussed the method of distribution of funds to be allotted under head IV.

Distribution to Divisions.

It was decided to allot six and-a-half lakhs, of which the Delhi Division should get three lakhs, Rawalpindi one and-a-half lakh, Lahore one lakh and thirty thousand, Jullundur fifty thousand and Derajat twenty thousand. The internal distribution was left to a small Sub-Committee which was to act in consultation with Local Revenue Officers and Local Committees. The distribution was to be made by the Local Committees in money and not in seed or cattle, and Local Committees were requested to make arrangements for the seed or cattle purchased to be inspected by some trustworthy person.

Allotments to districts.

63. The distribution made by the Sub-Committee was as follows:—

Delhi Division.

	R
Hissar	2,20,000
Karnal	50,000
Rohtak	20,000
Delhi	5,000
Umballa	5,000
TOTAL	3,00,000

Rawalpindi Division.

Rawalpindi	50,000
Jhelum	42,000
Gujrat	25,000
Shahpur	20,000
Gujranwala	13,000
TOTAL	1,50,000

Lahore Division.

Lahore	50,000
Mooltan	5,000
Jhang	25,000
Montgomery	10,000
TOTAL	90,000

The Rs 40,000 remaining for the Lahore Division the Sub-Committee proposed, with the Committee's sanction, to transfer to the Jullundur Division, giving Rs 25,000 to Ferozepore and Rs 15,000 to Hoshiarpur.

Jullundur Division.

	R
Ferozepore	50,000

Derajat Division.

Bannu	10,000
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The other Rs 10,000 were kept in hand pending receipt of the requirements of the Dera Ismail Khan Committee. Districts which had not done so were again urged to prepare lists and to complete their arrangements for distribution.

64. Copies of the Central Committee's letters Nos. 817 and 837 were circulated to Local Committees, and the necessity of keeping full and correct accounts was emphasized.

65. On the 15th June another general meeting was held; the proceedings of the Sub-Committee were approved, but out of the Rs 40,000 remaining from

the allotment to the Lahore Division, R20,000 were given to the Lahore District and R20,000 to Ferozepore. The R10,000 reserved from the Derajat allotment were given to Dera Ismail Khan. A further grant was made of R5,000 to Hoshiarpur from the balance still in the hands of the Provincial Committee. Of the grant of R50,000 to the Rawalpindi District, R10,000 were taken away and handed over to the Commissioner of the Division at his request for distribution as he should think proper.

66. These grants were all under head IV for the purchase of seed and cattle to give a fresh start to the small proprietors who had lost cattle and capital through the famine. Prices having fallen it was not thought necessary to make further grants under head III.

67. Four bundles of clothing which had been received from England were assigned one to each of the districts Lahore, Ludhiana, Delhi and Hissar, in all of which districts missionary ladies had undertaken the distribution. Several intermediate reports from districts were laid before the Committee for information, but it is unnecessary to refer further to them here.

68. On the 6th July another meeting of the Committee was held to consider a circular letter No. X. P. from the Central Committee, inviting applications for further grants to meet special and urgent needs in particular districts, as 30 lakhs more were to be distributed. Action had already been taken by the Secretaries on this letter, and replies had been received from districts and were considered by the meeting.

After careful consideration of the applications it was decided that the following claims appeared urgent :—

	R	
Delhi	7,000	under head III.
Ludhiana	20,000	under head IV for replacement of well and plough-cattle.
Gujranwala	5,000	
Lahore	30,000	
Jhelum	20,000	
Gujrat	15,000	R10,000 under head IV.
Sialkot	5,000	R 5,000 " " III.
TOTAL	1,02,000	

It was therefore resolved to ask the Central Committee for a further grant of one lakh.

69. Besides the above R10,000 were given at once to Ludhiana for cattle, as the Deputy Commissioner sent an urgent representation about the needs of his district. This sum was given from the balance in the hands of the Provincial Committee.

70. In reply to the application for the further grant a telegram was received on the 21st July announcing that the Central Committee had granted R75,000 more. A reminder was also sent us to remember orphans. This reminder was repeated in letter No. 1347, dated 21st July. As a matter of fact, however, it has been found that there are very few orphans of this famine in the Province, and such as there are have been taken by the different orphanages.

71. The telegram was considered by a meeting of the Committee held on the 22nd July at Simla, and the extra grant was distributed as follows :—

	R
Delhi	5,000
Ludhiana	14,000
Gujranwala	4,000
Lahore	20,000
Jhelum	16,000
Gujrat	13,000
Sialkot	4,000
TOTAL	76,000

The Rs 1,000 above the sum sanctioned by the Central Committee were granted out of the balance in this Committee's hands.

Rain had by this time fallen everywhere, and the money was distributed without delay in order to enable the people to get their cattle in time for the sowings.

72. On the 7th August the services of Mr. S. S. Harris were placed at the disposal of this Committee for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Local Committees. The work occupied him for nearly four months, and we should like to record here that he performed a difficult and delicate duty with tact and ability. We would ask the Committee to authorise us to intimate this to the Local Government by which Mr. Harris' services were placed at our disposal.

73. The work of distribution by the Local Committees continued. We continually reminded them of the necessity of furnishing accounts of their expenditure, and the Auditor has succeeded more or less in securing accounts of a uniform character from all the Local Committees. This has been done with difficulty, as this matter of accounts has been the most difficult and troublesome part of our duties in connection with your Committee. We fully sympathise with the Local Committees. For the most part they have entertained very little establishment indeed, and it has been difficult for them to furnish the somewhat complicated accounts that have been required by the Central Committee. However, no efforts have been spared, and a fair measure of success has attended them. The accounts and statements will be found in a consolidated form as an appendix to this report.

74. No other meeting of the Committee was found necessary till the 19th October 1897, when the action taken by us was reported and some applications for further grants were considered.

Further grants.

By that time the work of distribution had been completed in most districts. In some cases a balance had remained which had been refunded, in others more money was still required.

In Gurgaon, owing to some misunderstanding, the Local Committee had spent Rs 6,000 on free grants of seed and cattle out of money which had really been granted by Government for loans. On the application of the Deputy Commissioner the Committee granted Rs 6,000 to make this good.

75. A further grant of Rs 10,000 was made to Montgomery for the purchase of seed and cattle which the Local Committee found to be urgently needed for the rabi harvest.

76. It was reported to the Committee that in Ludhiana a large balance of over Rs 20,000 remained unexpended. The Deputy Commissioner was present at the meeting, and explained that he wanted the money for the redemption of lands that had been mortgaged on account of the famine. This same suggestion had been made early in the year by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, and it was pointed out to the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana that the money available was not sufficient to enable him to give substantial relief in this way, and, moreover, it was not expedient that this redemption should be undertaken in one district only.

The Ludhiana Committee.

It was finally resolved that the balance should be left with Ludhiana, as the Deputy Commissioner stated that it could be fully utilised in free grants for cattle, as his other scheme was not approved.

77. Another meeting, the last during 1897, was held on the 5th November to decide as to the disposal of balances remaining in the hands of several Local Committees and of the Provincial Committee.

A balance of Rs 1,500 remained in Hissar, which it was decided to leave in the hands of the Local Committee for the purchase of blankets for the cold weather.

Similarly, a balance of Rs 5,000 was left in the hands of the Karnal Committee, as it seemed to be still needed.

The Local Committee of Gujranwala was requested to refund its balance of Rs. 9,000.

78. Out of a total grant of Rs. 48,000 made to Gujrat, Rs. 42,000 still remained unexpended. This was a district parts of which had been in great distress for months, and the Committee expressed its regret that the Local Committee had so failed to realise its responsibilities as to keep the money in hand when it had been so much needed.

The Gujrat district.

It appeared, however, that the Local Committee had now undertaken the preparation of lists for the proper distribution of the money, and it was resolved to send the Auditor to the district at once to find out the exact position of affairs. If the money could still be and was likely to be properly utilised, it was resolved to leave it in the hands of the Local Committee, as the needs of the district were undoubtedly great.

We may here report that the Auditor made the enquiry as directed, and found that preparations for distribution had at last been properly completed. The money was therefore left with Gujrat, and has been distributed.

79. The question of refunding to the Central Committee a part of the balance remaining in the hands of the Provincial Committee was next considered.

Disposal of balance in the hands of the Provincial Committee.

In addition to the small balance which our Committee had not allotted, certain sums had been refunded by the different Local Committees; and as the time for utilising all of this in the Punjab had now passed, it was resolved that Rs. 40,000 should be refunded.

80. Proposals were made for small grants to different orphanages, but, as already remarked, there are very few children of the Punjab who have become orphans in this famine, and such as there are have all been taken by orphanages. The greater part of the orphans taken in by these institutions have come from outside the Punjab; and as a special fund had been set apart by the Central Committee for orphans in India generally, it seemed more proper that these institutions should apply to the Central Committee for aid if necessary. Enquiries have, however, been made, and the matter may have to be reconsidered.

Orphanages.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

81. Since then we have been again calling for the accounts of Local Committees, which have even now not all been received.

Practical conclusion of operations.

82. The operation of our Committee may now be said to be at an end.

A final account cannot yet be rendered, and another meeting of this Committee will be necessary to consider this when necessary. This report, however, though only an *interim* one, is the principal one. Accounts are furnished up to the 31st October, and for most districts these practically are final accounts.

We have given an account of the working of the several District Committees in the third part of this report, and have appended an account of the invaluable work done by missionary ladies in carrying relief to those who would not otherwise have been reached. This concludes our report on the general working of the Provincial Executive Committee itself.

83. The Committee has met 14 times up to the present: once in Simla, the other times at Lahore.

We have to thank the Municipal Committee of Lahore for the use of the Hall which has always been placed at our disposal. The expenses of our office have, we think, been very small.

We have not had to pay any rent, and the establishment employed by us has consisted of one Babu on Rs. 50 per month and a chaprasi on Rs. 8 per month. The only heavy items of expenditure are on account of advertising our subscription lists and of printing, and we do not think that any of this was avoidable.

84. To sum up the financial results of the working of the Provincial Committee, the total receipts have been Rs. 12,67,521, of which Rs. 8,93,750 have been remitted from the

Financial results.

Central Committee, R3,17,884 were collected in the Province; and R12,833 were subscriptions for the Punjab, specially contributed through the Central Committee. The remaining R43,054 consist of miscellaneous receipts and an opening balance remaining with one district from a previous famine. The expenditure under objects III and IV has been R2,37,578 and R8,35,856, respectively, while under object I R10,022 were distributed, and only R930 under head II. The balance in hand on the 31st October was R1,70,838, of which R1,17,016 were with District Committees.

Up to that date our Lahore expenditure on Establishment had been R725, on printing and stationery R891, and on general charges R924.

85. Besides money we have had sent to us for distribution eight bales of clothing sent through Mrs. Jeannette G. Hauser. Of these, three were allotted to Lahore, two to Hissar and one each to Delhi and Ludhiana. The clothing seems to have been very welcome, though some of it, naturally perhaps, was unsuitable for the class to be relieved and was sold, the proceeds being devoted to the purchase of suitable garments. We also received consignments of Triticine food, Mellin's food, Swiss Milk and Meaby's biscuits. These were divided between Hissar and the Jhelum Canal Famine Relief Works, and were much appreciated.

PART III.—THE WORK OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

86. In some cases the reports submitted by District Committees have been merely copies of reports on the famine submitted to Government, so far as these relate to the administration of charitable relief. Thus the reports and the statements relate to a somewhat different period, and the figures may, in some cases, not agree.

The short notices on the work of each district that follow are taken from the report submitted by Mr. Harris, the Auditor, as well as from the reports of the Local Committees, which were in most cases meagre.

The only report which we have thought it necessary to embody in full is that of the Hissar Local Committee. Hissar was the district in which the famine was by far the most severe, and to which our Committee made the largest allotment of funds. The report, moreover, is the best that has been sent in, and will, we think, be interesting to subscribers.

We have therefore printed it *in extenso* as an Appendix to our Report.

87. In the Delhi district the chief distress was in Delhi city itself, among the respectable poor and artisans and skilled workmen thrown out of employment.

There does not seem to have been any great loss of cattle, and the agriculturists for the most part succeeded in tiding over the time of distress without charitable aid. A sum of Rs. 4,509-6-0 was however spent in free gifts for the purchase of cattle. This was distributed by Mr. O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner, personally.

The agency in the city of Delhi was a Committee, with the Deputy Commissioner as President, and Lala Jugal Kishore, Pleader and Municipal Commissioner, and Ghulam Mohammad Hosain, Municipal Commissioner, as Secretaries.

Sub-Committees were appointed for the several wards of the city, and a Financial Sub-Committee performed the duties of Accountant.

The total amount allotted by our Committee to the Delhi District Committee was Rs. 50,600, local subscriptions amounted to Rs. 18,328, making a total of Rs. 68,928.

With the exception of the Rs. 4,509, spent on gifts for the purchase of cattle, all the expenditure has been under head III, for the relief of the poor.

The distribution was effected chiefly by the grant of tickets which entitled the holders either to free doles of grain, or to half free doles or to purchase a limited quantity at cheap rates. The relief was commenced on the 1st November 1896 and continued for 12 months.

The preparation of the lists of recipients seems to have been done with care, and the accounts are reported by our Accountant to have been well and correctly kept.

The accounts of the shops seem however to show that a certain amount of money was misappropriated, and perhaps this was inevitable. At first the Committee gave tickets authorising *banias* (shop-keepers) to give a certain amount of grain free or at cheap rates, but from the 1st February 1897 the Committee opened shops of its own with a paid Munshi at each. Both systems are difficult to properly control, and some of the Munshis had to be dismissed for misconduct.

The total number of persons relieved by this means was as follows:—

November 1896	.	.	4,827	May 1897	.	.	5,038
December "	.	.	6,363	June "	.	.	6,243
January 1897	.	.	6,061	July "	.	.	6,158
February "	.	.	917	August "	.	.	6,985
March "	.	.	1,922	September "	.	.	7,048
April "	.	.	2,826	October "	.	.	6,496

Up to April these were all in the city itself, but thereafter some from other towns and villages also received relief.

For his co-operation in the administration of the funds of this district, Lala Jugal Kishore deserves the thanks of the Committee. He appears to have kept the statistics and accounts with care and his fortnightly reports have been promptly submitted.

The Rev. H. C. Carlyon and the Rev. S. S. Thomas lent considerable assistance to the Committee.

The cost of administration amounted to ₹1,351-7-8, or ₹2-3-8 per cent. on the amount distributed.

GURGAON.

88. This district is in the Delhi Division, parts of which suffered more from the famine than any other part of the Province. Part of Gurgaon suffered great distress, especially part of the Rewari tahsil, where there are no canals.

Here there was considerable loss of cattle, and the people being already in debt, charitable relief alone could preserve their land to them. In the towns and larger villages there was the usual distress owing to high prices. In all ₹11,000 were granted by the Provincial Committee to this district, of which ₹2,500 were subsequently returned on receipt of our letter asking for the refund of all the money that could be spared. The local subscriptions, which were only brought on our accounts late in the day, amounted to ₹3,798-14-0.

There seems to have been no general District Committee in Gurgaon, but there were several small Committees in different parts of the district, *viz.*, at Gurgaon, Rewari, Farrukhnagar and Sohna. It is perhaps owing to the absence of organisation that the accounts have been rendered with less promptness and accuracy than in other districts. The poor persons to be relieved in Rewari were selected by members of the Municipal Committees, and the list was checked by the Deputy Commissioner with the assistance of the ladies of the Rewari Mission. To these persons doles of grain were given by Mr. Giddens, Secretary of the Municipal Committee.

In Sohna Lala Brij Narain selected the persons deserving of relief, while in Farrukhnagar Khan Bahadur Mir Nasir Ali, Superintendent of Salt Revenue, undertook this work. In Gurgaon itself Munshi Barkat Ali, Pleader, performed the duties of Honorary Secretary to the Local Committee.

Relief was given from 1st December 1896 to 8th December 1897 at an expenditure of ₹6,068. Most of those relieved were helpless people, the blind and the lame, widows and children. Two hundred and sixty-five persons received doles of cooked food, and 37 received daily money doles. Some relief was given by means of relief works—the digging of tanks—which afforded employment for labourers.

For object IV no grant was at first obtained, although, as stated, the agriculturists were in parts much distressed. By some mistake, however, ₹6,000 were distributed in gifts for the purchase of oxen, as the Deputy Commissioner apparently misunderstood some communication received from the Commissioner of the Division to mean that this sum had been allotted from our funds.

The mistake was reported to our Committee, and the sum of ₹6,000 was thereupon allotted to the district for such relief.

The District Report does not show the methods adopted in distributing this relief.

The Deputy Commissioner mentions that the following gentlemen did good work in helping in the distribution of relief:—

Nawab Mirza Beg, Tahsildar, Gurgaon.

Mr. Giddens, Secretary to Municipal Committee, Rewari.

Mir Nasir Ali, Vice-President of the Farrukhnagar Municipality.

The Committee's thanks are due to them, and also to the ladies of the Mission at Rewari.

ROHTAK.

89. In this district, which is mainly agricultural and contains no large towns, relief was needed and given principally under head IV,—giving a fresh start to agriculturists who had lost their cattle and capital through the famine.

There was much distress among the poor, but the pinch does not seem to have been enough to overcome their reluctance to accept charity in the shape of doles of food or tickets for the purchase of grain at cheap rates. "Cheap shops" were started at Rohtak, at Jhajjar and at Gohana, but these were closed in three months as the system of relief was found very unpopular.

The tickets were issued by Tahsildars according to lists prepared by the Local Committees. The total amount granted to this district by our Committee was Rs50,000, of which Rs9,000 were returned in September 1897 on the receipt of our letter asking for the refund of any amounts that could be spared.

Local subscriptions amounted to Rs4,172-9-6.

No expenditure commenced till May 1897 when the three cheap shops were opened. The total expenditure on these was only Rs678-4-8. The expenditure under head IV was Rs44,090-8-0 as follows:—

	R	a.	p.
Gifts for the purchase of cattle to replace those lost	18,684	0	0
For the purchase of seed	22,417	0	0
For the hire of cattle	223	0	0
For fodder	2,335	8	0
For watering cattle	431	0	0

The money was distributed by the Treasury Officer, the Revenue Assistant and the Additional District Judge personally at each tahsil head-quarters. The lists were prepared by the Tahsildars and checked so far as possible by the three officers named. The method seems to have been satisfactory, though without going personally nearer to the spot than the tahsil head-quarters it is impossible that they can have checked the lists very effectively.

The administration of the funds was in the hands of a small District Committee which had been formed before our Committee came into existence.

Lala Sheo Parshad, Extra Assistant Commissioner and Treasury Officer, was President of the Committee. He and Babu Bishambar Dyal did good work and kept accounts which our Auditor found to be clear and correct.

HISSAR.

go. Hissar suffered far more than any other district in the Province from the famine. The reasons for this have been referred to in the first part of this report.

The district is almost entirely dependent on rain and at all times is in a precarious position. For this reason the people are more provident than in many other districts—especially canal-irrigated districts—and can tide over a bad harvest. It was the succession of three decidedly bad harvests preceded by others not very good that reduced the district to a state of acute distress.

We need scarcely refer in more detail to the circumstances of this district as the report prepared by Mr. M. S. D. Butler, Assistant Commissioner, who was Secretary of the District Committee of our Fund, has been so fully and carefully prepared that it is not necessary to do more than refer to it.

We have thought it advisable to print it in full in Appendix B of this Report.

The amount allotted to this district by our Committee was two and half lakhs. Local subscriptions to the amount of Rs17,300 were realised.

The total expenditure up to the end of October was Rs2,63,540, of which Rs24,259 were spent in daily relief, in the shape of doles of money, grain, etc.

For 38 weeks the average number of individuals obtaining relief was 2,115 per diem.

An expenditure of Rs2,35,375 was incurred on gifts to cultivators for the replacement of their cattle, of which it is estimated that more than half had perished.

This part of the work of distribution seems to have been most carefully and well carried out. The district was divided into four parts and in each a responsible officer was entrusted with the distribution. The four officers are deserving of mention and commendation: they were Mr. Butler, Assistant Commissioner,

Mr. Stephen, Assistant Commissioner, Sheikh Din Muhammad, Sub-Divisional Officer, Sirsa, and Lala Sansar Chand, Revenue Assistant of the district. The whole of the money was given by them personally to the actual recipients and a receipt was taken from each.

The Government loans and the charitable grants were given at the same time. In preparing the lists, the applicants were not informed that part of the money was to be given as a free gift. In each village the list of those to receive some sort of grants was prepared, and it was afterwards ascertained which of these were in a position to give security for Government loans. Such as were, received them: the others received free gifts.

The work of the distributors was by this means only rendered possible, as it was the object of each applicant to show what means he had, and not, as it would otherwise have been, to conceal his real condition. Moreover, as the recipients were only told afterwards that the money was a gift, they had an incentive to devote the money to its legitimate purposes of cultivation in the thought that the money would have subsequently to be made good out of the proceeds of that cultivation. Another good point worthy of notice in the administration of our funds in this district is that the preparation of lists of recipients was all ready before the rain came. The money was withheld until the rain did come, in order to guard against its being misapplied, and was then distributed in the minimum space of time. The thanks of the Committee are due to Captain Dunlop Smith, the Deputy Commissioner, who is responsible for these excellent arrangements, and to the four officers above-mentioned who so ably carried them out.

It is unnecessary to refer here in any detail to the work of daily relief carried on in towns and villages in this district. We need only refer again to the District Report.

The work of Miss Theobald and Miss Phillips of the Baptist Zenana Mission deserves the deep gratitude of our Committee and of all subscribers to the fund. These ladies carried relief to a class which, it may safely be affirmed, could have been reached in no other way.

The District Committee was fortunate in securing the willing help of many others who have been mentioned in its report, and especially would we bring to notice the smallness of the expenditure on establishment which show that, as Mr. Butler states, the clerks, the treasurer and others of the district establishment must have done a very large amount of work without additional payment.

The District Report shows how much the gifts of clothing sent from England were appreciated and also the consignments of Nestle's milk, Triticene food and Meaby's biscuits, which were found invaluable in the hospitals and were also distributed by Miss Theobald to the hungry who were relieved by her means.

The gratitude expressed by the District Committee might be conveyed to the donors of these gifts.

In conclusion we would call the attention of the Committee to the able work done in this district in the administration of our allotment by the Deputy Commissioner, Captain Dunlop Smith, and the Secretary to the Local Committee, Mr. Butler, who, though comparatively new to the country, has performed a difficult and laborious task with sympathy and tact and with a thoroughness that deserves high praise.

Mr. Harris, the Auditor, reports that the accounts were kept perhaps better in this district than in any other. The Committee may feel assured that extremely little of the large amount allotted to this district was misspent.

KARNAL.

91. In Karnal district there was much distress among the poor of all classes, but generally they succeeded in living through the distress without accepting charity.

The greatest expenditure was made under head IV.

The allotments made by our Committee amounted to Rs60,000, of which Rs10,000 were subsequently refunded on receipt of our letter asking for the refund of amounts that could be spared.

Before our Committee came into existence, meetings had been held and local subscriptions started. These amounted to Rs10,980 and were sufficient for the needs of the district under head III. A District Committee was appointed for the administration of the Funds and the Deputy Commissioner was Chairman and Honorary Secretary. Sub-Committees were formed in each tahsil.

The amount expended under head III was Rs5,338-4-8—Rs2,839-6-11 in villages and Rs2,498-13-9 in towns. The villages were found as usual; very averse to accepting any relief in this form.

The method of relief was by free doles of grain, or in the villages of money. Lists of recipients were prepared by the members of the Committee with the aid of the tahsil officials. The doles were distributed by members of the Municipal Committee in the towns of Karnal, Kaithal and Panipat, and in the villages by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars. The Deputy Commissioner thinks that the whole of the money reached the proper persons. The work went on from January to July. Under head IV, Rs49,246 were distributed, Rs24,365 in gifts for the purchase of cattle in Tahsil Karnal and Rs24,881 in Tahsil Kaithal.

In the Karnal tahsil the Deputy Commissioner himself distributed the money; in Kaithal the Sub-Divisional Officer did so.

The lists of recipients were prepared in good time and the money was distributed in time for the kharif sowings. The amount allowed for a bullock was estimated to be from Rs25 to Rs40. The accounts are reported by the Auditor to have been properly kept.

UMBALLA.

92. In Umballa though there was loss of cattle and some agriculturists were distressed thereby and by the want of seed with which to sow their land again when the rains came, the chief distress was felt by the poor of the towns, the women and the respectable men who could get no employment that they were able to undertake.

Before the creation of our Committee, meetings had been held in Umballa and Local Committees had been formed in the city and the cantonment, and also in Jagadhri. Private subscriptions to the amount of Rs5,424-15-3 were collected in all after our Committee started, and this was credited to our fund. Before this private subscriptions had been raised and cheap shops had been started in the city and cantonment, but had been closed for want of funds shortly before our Committee was formed.

On receipt of our letter of the 15th February 1897, a strong Committee was formed with the Deputy Commissioner as President and Lala Murli Dhar, Pleader, as Honorary Secretary.

This Committee appointed Sub-Committees who carried on the work of relief by means of cheap shops, i.e., shops at which grain was sold at cheap rates, the loss being made good from the Charitable Fund.

The whole district was divided into 13 circles, each of which was put under the charge of two or more responsible persons.

An allotment of Rs15,000 was made for the district by the Provincial Committee—the subscriptions locally raised were credited to the Provincial Fund, and the net amount received was therefore only Rs9,585. Rupees 5,456 were distributed in Umballa city and cantonment and the distressed parts of the district in the form of bounties to respectable *pardah-nishin* widows.

The cost of the cheap shops after our Committee came into existence was Rs1,343. Rupees 2,000 were distributed in relief to women by Miss M. E. Pratt, a Missionary lady, who did excellent work in helping women by giving them tasks of spinning for which they were paid from the Fund.

The expenditure in gifts for the purchase of cattle and seed was man-

aged by Lala Bishambar Dyal, the Revenue Assistant of the district, who seems to have done the work in a satisfactory manner. The grants were made as usual to those who were unable to find security for loans from Government.

The amount spent in this form of relief was Rs 5,000, each individual receiving from Rs 12 to 25 each. A considerable number of the most deserving cases were then relieved. The balance in the hands of the District Committee has been or is being devoted under head IV to relief of certain villages that were destroyed by fire owing to the drought.

We cannot leave this district without recommending that the thanks of the Committee be communicated to Lala Murli Dhar, the Honorary Secretary of the District Committee, who has done excellent work with a zeal and ability that, as the Deputy Commissioner states, set a fine excellent example of disinterestedness and public spirit.

The thanks of the Committee are also due to Miss Pratt for her untiring energy in assisting the poor women of Umballa.

Others who deserve mention are (1) Babu Ragindra Nath Dey, the Local Funds Secretary, who did the work of Honorary Secretary, (2) Lala Ganga Parshad, who acted as Honorary Treasurer, (3) Lala Bishambar Dyal, Revenue Assistant, who personally distributed the gifts of cattle and seed, (4) Lala Sham Lal and Lala Hirde Ram, Naib-Tahsildars, who personally distributed the bounties to *pardah-wishin* women and others.

SIMLA, KANGRA, KULU.

93. In these districts though there was distress owing to high prices; there was none so serious as to call for the organisation of relief. They are hilly districts with a sparse population. Simla, of course, stands by itself with a large European population and a native population consisting of officials and servants.

JULLUNDUR.

94. In this district there was not severe distress, except that caused to the poor of the city of Jullundur by the high prices.

Agriculturists suffered comparatively little, and did not stand in urgent need of charitable relief.

A meeting was held on the 10th October 1896 to consider what relief was necessary for the poor of the town. A Committee was appointed with the Deputy Commissioner (and subsequently Sardar Muhammad Hayat Khan) as President, and Pandit Sheo Narain and Pandit Devi Chand as Honorary Secretaries. Subscriptions were collected to the amount of Rs 2,078-15-6. No assistance was asked from the Provincial Committee, although the District Committee affiliated itself with us.

Relief was given by means of doles of grain to recipients carefully selected by members of the Municipal Committee.

At the close of the operations a balance of Rs 25-10-10 remained in the hands of the Committee. The numbers relieved were 165 people daily from the 7th December 1896 to 25th March 1897 and 258 thereafter. The operations closed on the 20th September. The work seems to have been well done, and the Auditor reports that the accounts were found in good order.

The services of the Honorary Secretaries, Pandits Sheo Narain and Devi Chand, deserve acknowledgment.

LUDHIANA.

95. In this district there was considerable distress both among agriculturists and among the poor of the towns and large villages.

Relief was undertaken to meet both kinds of distress.

In March 1897 a Committee was formed with the Deputy Commissioner as President and the District Judge as Vice-President. Subscriptions to the amount of Rs 9,048-13-6 were realised, of which up to the end of October Rs 7,651-7-3 were spent in giving relief in the shape of free doles to the respectable poor to the number of 45,906 persons, and in November Rs 200 were spent

on food for the sick poor. For six months grain was sold at favourable rates to an average number of 272 persons daily at a cost of ₹784

It is reported that many of the poor had immigrated from the Bikanir, being starved out from there. It would seem that Government relief works might have been started for the benefit of these and other poor persons who were unable to work, but perhaps the number was never at any one time large enough to justify this.

Another class that cried out for relief in the town of Ludhiana was the artisan class, the weavers and embroiderers of shawls, curtains, etc. The demand for their manufactures ceased owing to the hardness of the times, and they were left with no means of earning a livelihood. Their relief was undertaken with the help of a grant of ₹15,000 from the Provincial Committee. They were provided with materials and enabled to make the *shawls*, *phulkaris* or whatever it might be, for which when made they were paid the ordinary rates. The District Committee was thus advancing them capital and anticipating the demand for these articles, which was sure to revive when the depression passed. It was thought first that all the goods made would be sent to England for sale, but in the end some have been sold locally and some in Lahore. The remainder will probably be auctioned. So that a considerable part of the grant of ₹15,000 has been recovered.

The relief afforded was substantial, and the cost comparatively not heavy. The total value of the goods made was ₹12,418, of which the part sold has realised some ₹7,500. One of the bundles of clothing sent to us by the Central Committee was allotted to Ludhiana, and such of the clothing as was suitable was distributed to poor women. Other garments were found either too good or unsuitable and were sold, the proceeds being devoted to the purchase of other more suitable clothing.

The garments were distributed by some Missionary ladies, Miss Greenfield, Miss Reuther and Miss Wylie, by the District Judge and some by the Tahsildars of outlying tahsils. As the great need for clothing was resulting in a rapid rise in the death-rate, a sum of ₹4,000 from the money in hand was also devoted by the District Committee to the purchase of warm clothes. The result was apparent, for the death-rate fell again almost at once.

The relief of the poor seems to have been most heartily carried out by Rai Karam Chand, District Judge, and by some members of the Municipal Committee. Their work as well as that of the Missionary ladies deserves acknowledgment.

Under head IV, for replacing cattle and seed, in order to give zamindars a fresh start, a grant of ₹24,000 was made by our Committee. Of this ₹20,836 have been spent in grants to 1,112 persons, the remainder, ₹3,164, has been refunded to the Provincial Committee.

The loss of cattle had only been great in two parts of the district, and the distribution was made in these parts by Lala Kesho Das, Revenue Assistant, and Munshi Muhammad Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner. They seem to have made careful enquiry into the cases relieved, and the work was apparently well done.

HOSHIARPUR.

96. In the greater part of this district there was no famine, as the crops were good. The district is submontane and parts of it even benefited by the dry seasons as the rain is, as a rule, excessive.

Owing to the scarcity of fodder there was loss of cattle in parts, and in the hilly tract running round the Una valley, where the villages depend entirely on rain and where the land and the people alike are poor, there was considerable distress. The only form of relief found necessary in the district was the distribution of a small number of free grants to replace the cattle lost.

A meeting was held in Hoshiarpur town in March 1897 on receipt of our circular letter. A Branch Committee was formed to collect subscriptions, and a sum of ₹2,628-12-0 was remitted to our Fund. An allotment of ₹5,000 was made by the Provincial Committee for distribution under head IV, and out of this ₹4,940 were distributed in free grants for the purchase

of cattle. The lists of recipients were prepared by the Tahsildars and checked by Lala Ganga Sahai, the Revenue Assistant, and Sheikh Amir Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner. The latter two gentlemen personally distributed the money as follows :—

	R
In Tahsil Una	3,940
Hoshiarpur	436
Dasuya	234
Garhshankar	330

The average amount given for each bullock was about R12.

Rupees 60 were given in Tahsil Una to 12 persons whose houses had been destroyed by fire.

The accounts in this district were simple, and the Auditor reports them correct.

FEROZEPORE.

97. We have not yet received the final report from this district and have therefore to depend on the account furnished by the Auditor and by such intermediate reports as have been received.

The total amount allotted to the district by our Committee was R71,000 and the local collections were larger than in any other district.

Before the operations of our Committee commenced subscriptions had been raised in a very large number of villages for the widow and helpless persons of their respective neighbourhoods. This was due to the advice and orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Montgomery, who sent round his assistants to organise the subscriptions everywhere. The subscriptions were left entirely in the hands of the local people and no accounts were furnished to any one so that it is impossible to get any account or statistics of the relief afforded. Over two hundred Sub-Committees were formed in different villages to manage these funds.

There can be no doubt that an immense amount of good was done, and though it is possible that in some cases the methods might not have satisfied our Auditor, still the people who managed the money knew best what the needs of those wanting relief were, and in many ways the less official interference there was in these matters the better.

After receipt of our circular letter a district Famine Charitable Relief Committee was formed with the Deputy Commissioner as Chairman, and Mr. Leslie Jones, Assistant Commissioner, and Rai Bahadur Maya Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Honorary Secretaries. Sub-Committees were formed for the Ferozepore City and for each of the tahsil head-quarters.

The Ferozepore City Sub-Committee gave a grant of R760 to the Ferozepore Orphanage and employed a number of poor women in spinning; the net expenditure on this being R287. In this work they were aided by a mission lady, Mrs. Newton, who managed it for them. Rupees 1,553 were spent in cash-doles to poor people of respectable position. A cheap shop was started but was soon given up as a failure.

In the Ferozepore tahsil, R1,630 were spent on village works, such as digging of tanks and in charity in the shape of doles and food.

In Tahsil Zira R881 were spent on similar objects.

All these sums expended from sums collected locally. The R71,000 granted by our Committee was reserved for expenditure under head IV, the replacement of cattle lost through the famine. Part of this district borders on Hissar and is the same kind of country, depending entirely on rainfall. In this part the mortality among cattle was very heavy and the need for money to give some of the impoverished landowners a fresh start was very great. The work of distribution seems to have been done on the whole excellently well.

The distressed villages had already been recorded by the Revenue Assistants, and this record served as a useful guide. The district was divided among the three Assistant Commissioners, each of whom went round with a Native Extra Assistant Commissioner, enquiring into cases of need, framing lists and

distributing the money. The amounts allowed for a bullock ranged from Rs 20 to Rs 45, and each recipient was called upon to execute a simple bond agreeing to refund the money if the bullocks were not purchased in three months. Up to the end of October a little over Rs 55,000 had been distributed.

Rupees 1,220 out of the grant were distributed to the poor of Mukatsar and Fazilka in the form of doles, while Rs 425 were given to poor widows in the different towns. On the 31st of October there was a balance in the hands of the District Committee of about fourteen thousand rupees.

LAHORE.

98. The district of Lahore suffered severely from famine in parts. The parts that have canal irrigation were not badly off, but elsewhere great numbers of cattle perished from starvation, over-work and disease, leaving very many small proprietors with no alternative but to part with their land or part of it, in order to buy other cattle and to cultivate the land of others or the remains of their own in the future. A large amount of relief was therefore required under head IV to replace the lost cattle. In the city of Lahore there was a great demand for relief; the poor and helpless crowded into the city; there were hundreds of women, widows or deserted in distress, and there were children, lame, blind and infirm people who could not work, and respectable poor who were prevented from doing so by causes as strong as these,—by their caste and social position.

The total amount granted by our Committee to the Lahore city and district was Rs 1,16,260. Local subscriptions amounted to Rs 15,553-3-0, and Rs 6,938-2-0 were received as the proceeds of the sale of goods made by women under the management of Miss Bose, Superintendent of the Victoria Girls' School.

Miss Bose has kindly furnished a separate account of the work done by her, and it is unnecessary now to do more than refer to it. The amount realised from local subscriptions was administered by a Committee of which the Deputy Commissioner was Chairman and Lala Gopi Nath, Honorary Secretary.

The allotments made by the Provincial Committee were kept by the Deputy Commissioner in his own hands and he apportioned the money for various objects as he thought fit.

To deal first with relief under head III. The District Report classes this under 6 sub-heads:—

- (1) Distribution of cotton *gratis* to the poor women of certain distressed villages. This cost Rs 240-1-3.
- (2) To help poor widows in the city of Lahore, distributed *gratis* through Babu Mozamdar, Rs 300.
- (3) Distribution of cash to those employed on the Government Famine Relief Works when these works were closed, Rs 332.
- (4) Opening a poor-house in Lahore city where many helpless and infirm persons were maintained. This was opened from 7th April to 2nd October, and the expenditure was Rs 1,190-3-0.
- (5) Rupees 13,787-14-9 were distributed through Miss Bose, Superintendent, Victoria Girls' School, in relief to poor widows by giving them tasks of spinning and embroidery.
- (6) The opening of grain shops in the city to supply wheat to the respectable poor at a cheap rate. This was done at a cost of Rs 18,072.

The plan adopted was the usual one of issuing tickets entitling the recipients to purchase so much grain at reduced rates. The lists were prepared by members of the District Committee. It has been difficult to arrive at any figures to show the number of persons who received this relief, and the figures obtained are only approximate. The accounts of the shops were examined by the Auditor, and though they were very unintelligible, they were, so far as they showed anything, satisfactory. They were kept by the shopkeepers themselves, and do not show all the information that is required.

The amount distributed under head IV in grants for the purchase of cattle was Rs6,419-10-9. Of this all except Rs4,000 was distributed by Mr. Meredith, the Deputy Commissioner, who went round the district in the middle of the hot weather, and gave out the money after a personal enquiry into the fairness of the lists that had been prepared. The usefulness of his work was increased by the care which he took in explaining exactly what the money was, where it had come from, and for what it was being given.

Rupees 4,000 were distributed by the Assistant Commissioner, Kasur.

At first the Deputy Commissioner tried to purchase the cattle and hand them over to the zamindars, and about Rs12,500 were spent in this way, small fairs being held at Kasur, Chunian and Shalimar. It was found, however, that this did not work well, and the rest of the relief was given in cash. The Tahsildars have instructions to inspect the cattle purchased when on tour, and the Deputy Commissioner reports that so far it appears that the money has all been spent on the purposes for which it was granted. The average sum paid for a bullock was Rs30, and a small grant for seed was given along with it.

Out of the total receipts amounting to Rs1,38,751-5-0, there had been at the date of the District Report to Government an expenditure, under the various heads above detailed, of Rs1,29,469-12-6, leaving a balance in hand of Rs9,281-9-6. Part of this has since been disposed of.

We have printed in Appendix B brief reports by the ladies who aided the District Committee in the work of relief in Lahore.

AMRITSAR.

99. In this district it was not found necessary to expend anything from our fund on the relief of agriculturists, but the distress in the city of Amritsar was very great. This was due, of course, to the high prices, but also to the absolute cessation of demand for the products of the numerous industries which flourish in Amritsar. Hundreds of people were left with no means of earning a living. They were unable to work at such unskilled manual labour as Government Relief Works afford, and their condition was one demanding relief on a large scale.

Mr. Nicholl, the Secretary of the Municipal Committee, since deceased, rose to the occasion, and organised a system of relief, which has earned the gratitude of the citizens and of the subscribers.

The circumstances were perhaps more difficult than those of any other district, as so many different kinds of relief were demanded by the different nature of the various industries prevalent there.

Unfortunately after starting the relief Mr. Nicholl was prevented by illness from carrying it through himself, or the work would doubtless have been more thorough even than it was.

The total grants of the Provincial Committee to Amritsar amounted to Rs20,000 and the local subscriptions to Rs8,497, making a total of Rs28,497. Some of the goods manufactured were sold, and the proceeds were again used in further relief, so that the relief actually afforded was by its economy largely extended in action. The goods that were not sold, clothing, etc., were distributed in relief to the poor needing them.

The fund was administered by a Committee with the Deputy Commissioner as President and Mr. Nicholl as Secretary.

The agencies of distribution were—

- (1) Members of the Municipal Committee.
- (2) The ladies of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society.
- (3) Mr. Nicholl himself.

By the first it may be said that relief was given to the respectable poor generally. They prepared lists of the deserving for their respective wards; the deserving being the poor who were unable for one reason or other to work on relief-works.

They then personally distributed to the persons entered in these lists metal tokens enabling them to buy half a seer of flour per diem at 12 seers the rupee, instead of at the market rate.

The second agency distributed relief to poor women—a class otherwise unreachable. The usual way in which the relief was given was by giving out tasks of spinning. The names of the ladies who took part in this excellent work were—

Miss Wauton, Miss Jackson, Miss Hewlett, Miss Worsfold, Miss Parslee, Mrs. Guilford, Mrs. Greenes, Miss Dewar, Miss Neville.

The cotton spinning was begun in January and closed in May (1897), and the money expended by Miss Wauton was Rs. 2,842. Miss Worsfold worked in the village of Bairwal, Miss Dewar in a number of villages in the Ajnala tahsil, Miss Parslee in Jandiala. Some of the thread when spun was given out to weavers to weave, and thus a large number of weavers also were relieved.

Under the superintendence of Mr. Nicholl himself relief was afforded to weavers, tailors, shoe-makers and harness-makers. The materials were purchased from our funds and given to these artisans to make into cloth, shoes or whatever it might be. They were paid a reasonable price for the making, and the manufactured articles were sold or were given out as charitable gifts to persons needing them.

A Shoe and Harness Factory was established in the Municipal Poor-house, by which over 1,000 persons were relieved.

The total expenditure was Rs. 32,292.

The District Committee in its report complains that it was unable to afford relief to a great many classes (*e. g.*, lace-makers) for want of funds. Doubtless a great deal more money could have been utilized, but one reason why more was not allotted by our Committee was that Amritsar is a wealthy city, and it was felt that the inhabitants would have subscribed more had the distress reached a really critical height.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the missionary ladies who rendered such excellent aid in administering the money allotted to this district. The city has suffered a great loss in Mr. Nicholl's death, and it is to him that the chief credit of the organisation is due.

MOOLTAN.

100. Mooltan is a district that is very little dependent on its rainfall, and consequently the famine was not much felt, except in the towns where the poor felt the pinch about as much as elsewhere owing to the high prices of food grains. Agriculturists did not suffer severely, but Rs. 5,000 out of the allotment made by our Committee were devoted to gifts for the purchase of cattle lost through the famine. Lists of recipients were prepared through the Tahsil-dars, and the money was distributed by these officials personally, the Revenue Assistant being directed to subsequently inspect the animals purchased.

The total amount allotted by our Committee was Rs. 14,000 and Rs. 5,200 were collected locally.

The system of relief was that two shops were appointed at which grain could be obtained by ticket-holders at 12 seers the rupee, the difference between this and the market rate being made good to the shopkeepers out of the Charitable Fund. The work of administration was in the hands of a Committee with Mr. T. Kennedy, Divisional Judge, as President, and Lala Narain Das as Honorary Secretary. Both of these gentlemen seem to have personally superintended the work of distribution of tickets and the checking of the accounts.

Great care seems to have been taken to see that only those obtained charitable relief who were properly entitled to it.

The Committee did not spend much of the money allotted, the local subscriptions of Rs. 5,200 being almost enough. The surplus money was refunded in accordance with our letter asking for the refund of any money that could be spared.

JHANG.

101. Jhang is a district which depends almost entirely on well and canal irrigation. The rainfall is very small and consequently the failure of the rains affected this district less than others. The chief way in which the district suffered was through want of fodder which, together with the continuous overwork, caused the death of a considerable number of cattle. No relief was started in this district till after receipt of our circular letter, when a meeting was held and a Committee formed, with the Deputy Commissioner as President, mainly to collect subscriptions.

The large sum of R17,255 was collected on behalf of the Provincial Committee.

A grant was found necessary for the replacement of cattle lost through the scarcity of fodder, and on the representation of the Deputy Commissioner a grant of R25,000 was made. The distribution of the money seems to have been very carefully and ably carried out under the personal superintendence of Captain Burlton, the Deputy Commissioner.

The following amounts were distributed :—

	R
In Tahsil Jhang	14,420
Do. Chiniot	2,025
Do. Shorkot	6,989

All of which was for the purchase of cattle, except R425 which were given for seed. The price allowed for each bullock was R25 and every person relieved got the value of one, or in some cases two bullocks.

The lists of recipients were prepared under the personal superintendence of Ressaldar Partab Singh and Lala Tikkan Lal, Extra Assistant Commissioners. The money was distributed on these lists by Captain Burlton himself, and in one Tahsil, Shorkot, he also saw the cattle purchased and handed over to the recipients. It seems certain that very little money was misspent in this district.

There was no need of relief other than this, as there seems to have been enough food in the district and there was always work going on on the new Chenab Canal which enabled any one who would work to get a living. The part of the district irrigated by the canal had excellent crops and must have reaped a fine profit from the high prices fetched by the produce: the zamindars thus contributed a large share of the handsome local subscriptions collected in this district.

MONTGOMERY.

102. The population of this district is almost entirely agricultural or pastoral and all the relief granted was granted under head IV in gifts for the purchase of seed and cattle. There are practically no large towns. Test relief works were opened but were not attended. Cheap shops, *i.e.*, shops at which the poor could obtain food grain below the market rate, were opened at Montgomery and Kamalia apparently by a subscription from the shopkeepers themselves, and continued for about five months, but accounts of these do not seem to have been furnished as they were independent of our organisation.

There was considerable loss of cattle in the district, and many also were found without seed to sow or the wherewithal to buy it.

A large amount of relief under head IV was therefore rendered necessary. The Provincial Committee allotted R20,000. The local subscriptions amounted to R2,995, of which R2,410 were for local needs. The total at the Local Committee's disposal was therefore R22,410. The Committee was formed on the 23rd of March at a General Meeting convened on receipt of our circular letter. One Committee with a smaller Executive Committee was formed for the district while Sub-Committees were formed for each tahsil. Mr. Fagan, Settlement Officer, was President of the District Committee, with Lala Chuni Lal (subsequently Lala Lachman Das) as Honorary Secretary.

Lists of deserving recipients of gifts of seed and cattle were drawn up by Tahsildars.

The district was then apportioned as follows:—

Tahsil Montgomery to the Deputy Commissioner.

Tahsils Gugera and Dipalpur to Mr. Isa Charan Chundu Lal, Settlement Officer.

Tahsil Pakpattan to Lala Narain Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner.

These officers went round their respective tahsils, checking the Tahsildar's lists, and personally distributing the money.

The amounts distributed in this way were—

	R
For purchase of bullocks	7,235
Ditto seed	14,189
	<hr/>
	21,424
	<hr/>

The distribution of the money was deferred till the rains in order that it might not be spent prematurely. The purchases have been and are being inspected and branded. It is stated that the money has in nearly all cases been properly utilized. The amount spent on a bullock averages Rs25, so that roughly nearly 300 people have been provided with a bullock each. This must have done something to mitigate the distress due to the loss of cattle.

Credit is due to the officers who have taken trouble in seeing that the money reached those deserving the relief.

The district report has been written with more care than most, though the details of the nature of the relief cannot be made very interesting.

RAWALPINDI.

103. The hilly parts of this district did not suffer greatly from famine, but in the rest of the district agriculturists suffered great loss of cattle and the poorer respectable classes of the towns suffered from the high prices. In November 1896 a meeting was called in Rawalpindi to devise some scheme of relieving the respectable poor of the city and cantonments.

A Committee was formed to collect and distribute subscriptions and the Deputy Commissioner was made President, with Rai Bahadur Sardar Sujan Singh and Khan Bahadur Seth Dhanjibhoy as Vice-Presidents, and Lala Maya Das, Pleader, as Honorary Secretary. About Rs6,000 were collected, and the system of relief started was to prepare lists of the poor who were unable to beg or work and were being starved on account of the high prices: to those entered on these lists tickets were given enabling them to buy small quantities of flour at 2 sers the rupee above market rate or at ten sers the rupee if the market rate fell below 8 sers.

This relief was carried on from 10th January 1897 to the 2nd July 1897 and 398 families received the relief. The work was all done out of the subscriptions collected in the city and cantonment and the total net cost was Rs1,346-3-7.

The work seems to have been done excellently and credit is due to Seth Dhanjibhoy and others for this excellence. It may be confidently said that very little relief failed to reach deserving persons.

Nothing was done for the agriculturists till March when on receipt of our circular letter a meeting was held and a District Committee formed. This was quite independent of the former Committees which remained separate throughout. Both Committees were affiliated to the Provincial Committee.

A further appeal for subscriptions was made and about Rs5,000 collected. The Provincial Committee made an allotment of Rs40,000 and the work of preparing lists of deserving recipients was commenced. The subscriptions

subscribed in each tahsil were kept for that tahsil and the grant was distributed as follows:—

	R
To Pindigheb Tahsil	12,000
„ Fatehjang Tahsil	9,000
„ Attock Tahsil	8,000
„ Gujar Khan Tahsil	5,000
„ Rawalpindi Tahsil	5,000
„ Kahuta Tahsil	1,000

A Sub Committee with the Tahsildar as President was formed in each tahsil. Lists of grantees having been prepared were checked by Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Farid Khan who distributed the gifts in 'Tahsils' Rawalpindi, Fatehjang, Gujar Khan and Kahuta, while the Assistant Commissioner of Attock distributed the money in his Sub-Division.

For the most part the money was spent in gifts for the purchase of cattle of which 2,000 were given in all: in Pindigheb Rs800 were devoted to the purchase of seed, while a cheap-shop was started at Fatehjang, the maintenance of which cost Rs1,030.

The whole of the money was disbursed and the accounts have been checked by our Auditor. At the conclusion of the operations a balance of a little over Rs4,000 remained in the hands of the City Committee and about Rs3,000 in the hands of the District Committee. The members of those Committees wish to fund these balances to provide funds for carrying on the relief of poor widows. The work in this district seems to have been well done, especially the work of the cheap-shops.

The thanks of the Committee are due especially to Lala Maya Das, the Honorary Secretary, who has done most useful work in the administration of the fund,

JHELUM.

104. There is reported to have been distress more or less throughout this district, but more particularly in parts of the Jhelum and Pind Dadan Khan tahsils. There was serious loss of cattle, and many agriculturists were reduced to such straits that they must have mortgaged or sold at any rate part of their land in order to procure cattle and seed to cultivate it with.

The only work of relief started before our Committee came into existence was in Jhelum itself, where a certain number of gentlemen subscribed to purchase food grain which was then retailed to all comers in quantities not exceeding one rupee's worth at or a little below the market rate. The reason for this action was that the shopkeepers had refused to sell retail at all, and people who could not buy grain one maund or more at a time could not get any at all.

The cost of the operation which lasted from November to March was very small. In March the shop was taken over by the District Famine Committee.

This was formed at a public meeting held on the 25th February. The Deputy Commissioner was made President, Mr. McDonald, Secretary of the District Board, Secretary, and the Treasury Officer, Honorary Treasurer. Sub-Committees were formed one in each Tahsil with the Tahsildars as Presidents, and three Sub-Committees at head-quarters to carry out the work of the District Committee. The local subscriptions amounted to Rs7,444-4-6 and Rs71,000 were allotted by the Provincial Committee.

The only forms of relief were under heads III and IV. Twenty-one shops were opened throughout the district, each in charge of gentlemen of good position. At these shops relief was given in the form of free doles of food grain and by the sale of grain at cheap rates.

Lists of persons entitled to both kinds of relief were drawn up by members of the Municipal Committees in the case of towns, and in the case of villages by gentlemen of position selected by the Tahsildars.

These lists were not, however, forthcoming when the Auditor visited the district, having apparently been destroyed when done with. The figures as

to the number of persons relieved cannot be verified, and having been prepared subsequently are only approximately correct. The net cost of this relief was ₹6,336, the total amount spent having been ₹19,216.

From reports received at the commencement of operations it was feared that the District Committee had run off the lines laid down for the administration of the fund in giving free grants to the ordinary poor, of relieving whom Government has undertaken the responsibility.

To some extent, no doubt, this was the case; but, on the whole, the relief seems to have been given in accordance with the principles prescribed.

The shops were open for about two months at the time of worst distress. The Deputy Commissioner points out that this "cheap-shop" system did not in some cases work well, because there were many who had no money at all, and whatever might be the price they could buy no grain. Doubtless there were many, and, as was pointed out at the time to the Deputy Commissioner, it seems that for them Government should have started some kind of relief works.

Under head IV two forms of relief were adopted, *viz.*, (1) cash grants for the purchase of cattle, and (2) cash grants for the purchase of seed. The amount given for cattle was ₹44,507, and 2,419 persons received grants, which seem to have averaged a little under ₹20. The Auditor found that in a number of cases separate grants had been made to different members of the same family. This may not have been objectionable. The amount given for seed was ₹26,089, and the grants averaged about ₹3 or 4. Lists of recipients were prepared by Patwaris, checked by Tahsildars, and finally checked by a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose.

The money was actually distributed on the spot by Tahsildars. It would have been preferable had this work been done by Assistant Commissioners or Extra Assistant Commissioners.

The grants seem, on the whole, to have been made to the proper classes, but at the outset, as found by the Auditor, the principle was adopted of demanding security for the return of the money in case of misapplication. This demand prevented or tended to prevent the most deserving people from getting grants at all.

The report of this district is concise but good, and the Deputy Commissioner has evidently given much personal attention to the administration of the funds.

SHAHPUR.

105. In this district there was distress during the cold weather months owing to the high prices, and in November 1896 the Deputy Commissioner convened a meeting and raised subscriptions to the amount of ₹6619, of which ₹4,587 were spent in distributing doles of grain to the needy. These doles were distributed at certain centres in each tahsil, and the arrangements were made by the Tahsildars in consultation with the Revenue Assistant.

The relief lasted from December to February. The doles were given at certain shops either in the shape of free gifts of grain or by the sale of small quantities at cheap rates.

The relief had been discontinued when our circular letter was issued. On receipt of that letter a Local Committee was formed, and raised subscriptions to the amount of ₹809, which with the balance, ₹2,131, of the former subscriptions, were remitted to the Provincial Committee.

For relief under object IV to replace the cattle that had perished, the Provincial Committee allotted to this district ₹20,000, which were all spent in gifts for the purchase of cattle. They were distributed among the tahsils as follows:—

	R
Shahpur	1,160
Khushab	14,720
Bhera	4,095

The Additional District Judge distributed the money in Shahpur tahsil. The Revenue Assistant distributed all the rest, except ₹1,575 which were

distributed by the Tahsildars. The principles adopted seem to have been quite in accordance with those laid down by the Central Committee, and the lists of recipients were apparently prepared with care.

GUJRAT.

106. Parts of this district, and especially the Phalia tahsil, suffered great distress owing to famine. The distress was of both the kinds experienced in the Punjab: the respectable poor, who could not work on Government Relief Works, were being starved by the high prices, while cattle died in large numbers from want of fodder and from over-work combined.

Government Relief Works were started in the district so early as August 1896 and continued till June 1897.

No relief for the respectable poor persons, who could not avail themselves of such works, seems to have been started till after our first circular letter in February 1897.

A District Committee was then appointed, with the Deputy Commissioner, Nawab Muhammad Afzal Khan Bahadur, as President, and Lala Ralia Ram as Honorary Secretary. Sub-Committees were formed at six centres in the district.

Money was collected to the amount of Rs. 3,712 only. Rupees 48,000 were granted by the Provincial Committee, Rs. 35,000 under head IV for the replacement of cattle and seed, and the remainder under head III.

The latter was distributed in the form of free doles of grain, a method that is not commendable, unless at least the recipients are chosen with extreme care. The accounts furnished by the Local Committee do not enable us to arrive at very trustworthy figures as to the numbers relieved. Apparently many were relieved from our fund who should have been sent to the Government Relief Works. The accounts of the Sub-Committees, except that of Gujrat itself, are reported by the Auditor to have been fairly satisfactory.

This kind of relief lasted for only some six weeks. It was begun late in the day and the selection of recipients might perhaps have been done more carefully.

The other kind of relief—the distribution of gifts for the purchase of cattle—was also undertaken too late. At first, by a misunderstanding, grants to a small extent were made only to such landowners as furnished security for its repayment in case of misappropriation.

It was pointed out to the Local Committee that such landowners as these could obtain loans from Government, and that the Charitable Fund was expressly for those who were so needy as to be unable to get Government relief for one reason or another.

This alteration in the method of selection entailed the preparation of new lists of recipients, and the consequence was that the distribution was made late. The money has, however, done a great amount of good, and it may be hoped that it did reach worthy recipients. The distribution was very largely made by the Deputy Commissioner himself, and the whole of the grant was utilized.

Out of Rs. 13,000 for relief of the respectable poor, only a little over Rs. 5,000 was expended.

SIALKOT.

107. The report from this district is very meagre, and the information about the working of relief there has been mostly ascertained from the report of our Auditor.

As in many other districts there was no actual famine, but distress was great on account of the high prices, and there was great mortality among cattle through over-work and starvation.

When the first letter from our Committee was received the Deputy Commissioner stated that the district would not require relief, and meetings were held and Committees formed in the city and cantonment with Sub-Committees, in the tahsils, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions.

In all R1,327 were collected, and of this R462 were remitted to the Provincial Committee.

The remainder, R865, which had been collected in cantonments, was retained by the Cantonment Magistrate, and devoted to the relief of the poor there.

The means adopted was the cheap-shop system. No lists of recipients were prepared, but any one could purchase small quantities of grain at two sérs in the rupee above the market rate. Some 600 people are said to have received relief for longer or shorter periods, but owing to a want of method, accurate information on the point is not obtainable.

The net expenditure was R553. Rupees 100 were spent on food distributed to the poor, and the balance on the purchase of blankets.

The relief was necessary, and considerable relief was given.

For the replacement of cattle it was at first stated, as we have said, that no grant was needed, but this proved to be far from being the case, and an application was subsequently made for an allotment. The Provincial Committee could then only allow R4,000, but other R10,000 were transferred from Rawalpindi and Gujrat.

The whole sum of R14,000 was distributed among the different tahsils for gifts of cattle. The average amount given for a bullock was from R25 to R30. Lists of recipients were prepared by the Tahsildars, and the money was distributed partly by these officials and partly by the Deputy Commissioner himself. The lists were also checked by the Revenue Assistant of the district.

GUJRANWALA.

108. The District Committee reports that the only form of relief that has been at any time found necessary in Gujranwala has been the replacement of cattle which perished in large numbers through want of fodder. The Committee was formed on receipt of our circular letter of the 14th February, with Khan Ahmad Shah, Additional District Judge, as President, and Ghulam Ahmad, Secretary of the District Board, as Honorary Secretary. The only work done by the Committee and by Sub-Committees, which were formed at each tahsil headquarters, was the collection of subscriptions which were remitted to the Provincial Committee. The subscriptions remitted amounted to R9,550-10-0.

Prices were about as high in this district as elsewhere, and it is not apparent why no relief was necessary for the respectable poor in some of the towns. It seems probable that there was distress in some towns of this district too, and that some of the local subscriptions might have been profitably spent in alleviating it.

A grant for the assistance of agriculturists was applied for from the Provincial Committee, and a sum of R17,000 was allotted. This was distributed, however, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, and quite independently of the District Committee. This is almost inevitable in the distribution of this kind of relief, which has to be done through official agencies. The allotment was distributed as follows:—

	R
To Tahsil Hafizabad	5,000
Do. Wazirabad	2,600
Do. Khangah	3,900
Do. Gujranwala	5,500

The work was entrusted to the Extra Assistant Commissioners in the district, and the amount given for the purchase of a bullock ranged between R15 and R30, some recipients getting the price of one bullock, some of two. Four hundred and forty-eight people are reported to have received this kind of relief, and if the worst and most deserving cases were selected, a good work must have been done.

The report furnished by this district is somewhat meagre, but it appears that steps have since been taken to ascertain that the grants were devoted to the proper purpose, and that in most cases the results have been satisfactory.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

109. No report from this district has been received, and the Auditor lent by Government seems to have encountered a spirit of passive obstruction when he tried to find out something of the work that was being done and to see the accounts of the money collected locally and remitted by our Committee. He reports that a District Committee was formed on the 3rd of March 1897, presumably on receipt of our circular letter. The Deputy Commissioner was Chairman and Lala Wazir Singh, Treasury Officer, was Honorary Secretary.

The allotment made by our Committee was Rs10,000, and was distributed as follows :—

									R
To	Tahsil	Dera	Ismail	Khan	.	.	.	.	1,400
Do.	Kulachi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,000
Do.	Tauk	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,200
Do.	Bhakkar	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,000
Do.	Leiah	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,400

The Revenue Assistant distributed the money in Dera Ismail Khan, and Rs1,900 in Kulachi, Rs1,100 in the latter tahsil being distributed by the Naib-Tahsildar. The Tahsildar distributed the Tank allotment, and Lala Amir Chand, Sub-Divisional Officer, the allotments for Bhakkar and Leiah. The work appears to have been properly done.

The local collections amounted up to the time of the Auditor's visit to Rs4,550, of which Rs4,230 were remitted to Lahore.

This is one of the few districts where large sums of money were distributed by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars, an agency which can hardly be said to be trustworthy in a work of this kind.

DERA GHAZI KHAN.

110. There was little distress here. A sum of Rs5,933 was collected, and grain was sold at rates below the market rate. This cost, Rs1,165-14-0, and the remainder of the money collected was returned to the subscribers. There does not seem to have been any Committee appointed, and the district acted quite independently of us throughout.

BANNU.

111. As a whole, this district did not suffer much from the famine.

The only part where relief was found necessary was the Marwat tahsil, where, owing to successive bad harvests, the agriculturists had lost some of their cattle and seed. They are mostly small self-cultivating proprietors, and would have been unable to recover from the losses had relief not been timely.

A Local Committee was formed for the administration of relief, and the Deputy Commissioner was President with Lala Anup Chand as Secretary.

Subscriptions to the amount of Rs5,175 were collected, of which Rs5,025 were for local expenditure.

Rupees 10,000 were allotted by our Committee, making a total of Rs15,025. Lists of agriculturists, who needed replacement of cattle and seed, but were not in the position to take Government loans for the purpose, were prepared by Kazi Taj Muhammad, Revenue Assistant, and Ghulam Kadar Khan, Tahsildar of Marwat.

When the lists were approved, Khan Taj Muhammad again went round distributing the money with his own hands to the actual recipients.

He subsequently ascertained in many cases that the seed and cattle had been really purchased with the money, in other cases the Tahsildar made the enquiry. Very little money seems to have been ill-spent, and the Auditor reports that the work was very well done. Rupees 14,526 were spent in gifts for the purchase of seed and cattle.

The only other expenditure was the distribution of Rs290 to 55 persons, whose houses and crops were burnt. This was distributed by Mr. Kitchin, Assistant Commissioner.

In this district Bakhshi Anup Chand, the Secretary, deserves mention for his good work, and Khan Taj Muhammad has earned the thanks of the Committee for the hearty and through manner in which he assisted in the distribution.

PESHAWAR.

112. The condition of the people in the rural areas did not give cause for anxiety, but the high prices caused much distress in the city of Peshawar, and local subscriptions were raised for the purpose of alleviating it. A Committee was formed on the 7th November 1896 to raise subscriptions and to administer relief. The Commissioner of the Division was President of the Committee, and the Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar was Vice-President. Lala Sundar Singh, Pleader, was Honorary Secretary. Two members of the Committee were placed in charge of each of the seven wards of the city.

These members drew up lists of recipients of relief after a house-to-house visitation of their respective wards.

Relief was to be granted as a rule under the conditions and to the classes mentioned in section 89 of the Famine Code, *viz.*—

- (1) (a) Idiots and lunatics ;
 (b) Cripples ;
 (c) Blind persons ;
 (d) All who from age, illness or infirmity are incapable of earning a living.
- (2) Persons whose attendance on the sick or on young children in their own homes is absolutely necessary.

Upon these lists tickets were issued entitling the recipients to purchase a certain amount of grain at cheap rates, or to receive free grants of grain at one of the shops, of which seven were started by the Committee, one shop in each ward.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to supply grain to these shops as needed, the stock of grain purchased being kept in a central godown.

The shops were open and the relief continued from the 20th December 1896 to the 28th May 1897, after which all relief was discontinued.

The total net expenditure was R19,535, of which R12,633 were raised by local subscriptions, and the remainder, R6,902, granted by the Municipal Committee. No grant was asked for from the Provincial Committee for any purpose, nor were any of the subscriptions remitted to it, although the District Committee affiliated itself. The Municipal Committee made a grant of R10,000, but, as stated, R6,902 were spent and the rest refunded.

The figures of the numbers relieved were not kept by the Committee, and had to be produced afterwards as well as possible. The Auditor reported that about half the number relieved received free grants, and the remainder were allowed to purchase at favourable rates. But the amount realised from these purchases was R12,746-10-9, and as the net expenditure was only R19,535, it would seem that the proportion of free grants must have been less. The abstract of the account stands as below :—

RECEIPTS.

	R	a.	p.
Local subscriptions	12,633	0	0
Municipal Committees' contribution	10,000	0	0
Sale-proceeds of grain	12,746	10	9
Total	35,379	10	9

EXPENDITURE.

Purchase of grain	30,749	7	9
Cost of establishment, etc.	1,326	4	9
Printing	139	11	0
Stationery	60	3	0
Miscellaneous	6	0	0
Refund to Municipal Committee	3,098	0	3
Total	35,379	10	9

The work of this Local Committee was most thorough, and deserves great commendation. The work of relieving the respectable was carried out in Peshawar with more and better system than perhaps in any other town. The relief was extensive and, at the same time, economical.

HAZARA AND KOHAT.

113. These are frontier districts, and felt the famine as little as any part of the Punjab. There was no need for reliefs in them, nor were any subscriptions sent from them, as they are not wealthy districts. They need no further reference here.

GURDASPUR, MUZAFFARGARH.

114. No reports have been received from these districts, and the Auditor did not visit them. They acted independently of our Committee, though a Committee that was formed in the former district affiliated with us. In both districts sums were collected and distributed locally, but no grant was applied for from our fund.

Gurdaspur is a submontane district, and submontane districts suffered, as remarked before, much less than the rest of the Province.

Muzaffargarh is a district which depends little on rain, and has no large towns. Being hemmed in by rivers there is usually grazing for cattle, and the mortality of well and plough-cattle was inconsiderable.

APPENDIX A.

PUNJAB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

SPEECHES BY SIR DENNIS FITZPATRICK, SIR WILLIAM RATTIGAN,
MR. C. L. TUPPER, ETC.

From the "Civil and Military Gazette," dated 8th February 1897.

A public meeting was held at the Montgomery Hall, Lahore, on Saturday, the 6th February, for the purpose of selecting a committee for the administration of charitable relief in the Punjab, and for passing various resolutions. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor presided, and there was a large attendance of European and Native gentlemen.

HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR said that it had been suggested to him that, in order to prepare the way for the business to be brought before the meeting, he should address a few observations on their present position with reference to famine in the Punjab, and, in particular, that he should explain to them what the Government undertook to do in regard to that matter, and what it proposed to leave to private charity. He was afraid that, to several present at that meeting, what he had to say was already familiar, but he trusted that they would bear with him for the few minutes he would occupy their attention for the sake of the great mass present who were not given to studying the published tabular returns and official correspondence. He had, in the first place, to tell them that, according to the latest returns that had reached them for the week ending February 2, there were on their hands in the Punjab upwards of 92,000 distressed persons. Of that number, a quarter were in receipt of gratuitous relief, and three-quarters were labouring, or making believe to labour, on famine relief works. On the last day of the week the numbers were considerably in excess of those, and the tendency apparently was for those numbers to increase. It was true that the rain which had fallen within the last month had been a very great blessing to the Province. It had improved the prospects of the rabi crop in the ground, and it had, in some places, even admitted of some additional sowings being made. As a result of that, there had been a very material fall in prices, but still, as he had already said, the tendency was for the numbers to increase. For how long the numbers would continue to increase, and for what length of time they should have a large number of distressed persons to provide for in the Province, was, of course, to a very large extent a matter of speculation. It might seem strange to some of them that at the very time when prospects had somewhat improved, and when the prices had materially come down, the numbers of the distressed should be on the increase. But it occurred to him that the explanation of that was a very simple one. Owing to the establishment of peace and order in that Province under a British Government, to the limitation of the Government demand, to the vast works of irrigation they had undertaken, and the great extension of communication that had taken place of late years, owing to all these causes, and to the large development of the cultivation, the people of the Punjab had a certain reserve of resources upon which they could fall back in a time of scarcity, and whilst they had that reserve, they would not come to them to seek work or to ask for charitable relief. But still the country was a poor one, and the people of the country were poor: the reserve to which he referred was a limited one, and if high prices kept up for any length of time, as they had been doing of late, a point was bound to be reached at which that reserve would be exhausted, and the people must come to them for relief in some shape or other. And that, though there might be a fall in prices, which would somewhat ease off matters, that, he believed, was what had occurred in the present crisis. The people managed to do without Government aid for a much longer time than he anticipated they would, but the point of time at which they were going on relief works and forced to seek charitable relief was reached in several districts some time back. And though prospects had improved, and though prices had fallen, he believed that, so far as one could venture to speculate about such a matter, the numbers on their hands would go on increasing for some time to come. That there should be a large amount of distress in the country, and that there should be a prospect of its increasing for some time still, was a very grave matter from two points of view. Its gravity from one point of view was obvious to all. They could form for themselves some estimate of the amount of human suffering which that state of things must entail, and they were all, he was sure, full sympathisers. But the matter was grave also from another point of view; he meant from the point of view of the Indian tax-payer, and that was a very serious point of view in a poor country like India. The gravity would be manifest to them when he said that at the lowest calculation what they were doing for the relief of distress in the Punjab at the present moment was costing them Rs. 8,000 a day, or about two and-a-half lakhs a month, and that expenditure, as he had stated, was likely in the future to increase. In that matter the Government owed a double duty. In the first place, it was bound to discharge the sacred obligations which it had taken upon itself to save human life (hear, hear), and, in the second place, it was

bound in the arrangement it made to fulfil its duty to take care that there was no unnecessary waste of public money. As regarded the first of those duties, he was glad to be able to inform them that their officers had succeeded in discharging it with a completeness which he scarcely ventured to hope for. He would confess to them that some months ago when they saw the distress which then was threatening was so likely to extend over a far larger area of the Continent of India than any similar distress which had occurred, at least in their time, when prices must rise to an inordinately high figure not only in those districts that were commonly regarded as insecure and for which they had famine relief programmes ready, but also in those districts which were also classed as secure and in which no such programme had been prepared, he could assure them that he felt very grave apprehension that the great calamity might in some districts come upon them before they were ready to meet it. But he was happy to say that, owing to the energy and zeal and resource of their officers, whether of high or of low degree, whether Native or European, all apprehension on that point was soon dispelled. Works had been found ready to start in all places as soon as they were required. They had succeeded not only in saving human life, but had also prevented people from acute suffering. He was glad to say that from what he had seen himself, and from what he learned from reports which were continually reaching him, the people were not reduced in that Province at that moment to that state of depression or emaciation which was observed in former times of scarcity, and to which they were at present reduced in some parts of India. If anything was needed to confirm that view, he might refer to the periodical statistics of deaths, which it was most important at a time like that to study. He was glad to say that the death returns at that moment were extraordinary, and below the average of ordinary years. That, he need hardly say, was due in a great measure to the dryness of the last few months, which, though it had been the main cause of the terrible calamity that had fallen upon them, had incidentally the beneficial result of making the country more healthy. He said the low death-rate was due largely to that, but at the same time the mere fact that the rate of mortality was so very low showed that, whatever might happen in the future, the health of the people had not yet seriously suffered. He wished he could report equally favourable results from the discharge of the other duty he had remarked upon—the duty of carrying on their relief operations in the most economical manner possible. He saw that some of their critics had lately written that the expenditure they were incurring on relief works had been a very profitable expenditure for the Government, or, perhaps, as they ought to have put it, for the Indian tax-payer, and that the Government, or Indian tax-payer, was getting most useful work done for half what it would cost in ordinary times. He did not know whether that was meant for a joke or sarcasm, but all he could say was that he wished there was even the smallest shadow of foundation for it. As a matter of fact, now that the first pressure of preparation for the main object of saving the lives of the people was over, and that they had had time to look more carefully into their accounts, they found that the cost of work done on the relief system was immensely greater than the cost of the work done by the ordinary method of petty contracting. He could not give them exact figures about that because they really only lately started those works. The people had come on to them in large numbers with much suddenness, and it would be hardly reasonable to expect that their arrangements under such circumstances would at once be made so complete as to ensure a proper return. But he might tell them that since he had been down to the Ghaggar Works, the two Chief Engineers, Colonel Marshall and Mr. Beresford, had gone, at his request, minutely into that question, and the conclusion to which they came was that, no matter what exertions might be made, the most that Government could hope for was to get work done at about double the cost which it would cost in their ordinary system of petty contract; and it might be doubted whether they would ever succeed in attaining that result. He mentioned that partly that he might complete the statement which he promised to give them of what they were doing and attempting to do, also because it illustrated the great difficulty of conducting relief works without incurring a great waste of public money, and because it would serve to enable them at once to understand how it was that they were compelled to have a relief system framed on certain strict principles which, perhaps, to some very benevolent persons, might seem a little too strict. It brought him to say a word as to the relief system. That system, or at least the main lines of it, were framed by very able men of large experience, and who had made that subject their study. It was assumed that Government would take upon itself finally and definitely the duties of preserving human life, but that it should undertake nothing more. The main principles laid down were that any gratuitous relief, save in very exceptional circumstances, should be given to no persons who were in such a position as to be able to work, and that, when gratuitous relief was given, it should be given only to such amount as was required to keep a non-labouring person alive and in health. For the rest, all persons requiring relief would be required to labour and perform a certain task, not of course the task that they would expect from the labourers that they ordinarily employed for their public works, as that was quite out of the question, but still some reasonable task, and that they should be paid for that task at such a rate as would suffice to keep the labouring man alive and in good health. Everything in the way of comfort, or what ordinarily would be comfort, was to be refused to all except those on the sick list. One observation more he would like to make on that system. That was that, being a system which from the very nature of the case was liable to very serious abuse, it was absolutely essential that it should be conducted openly and in the face of all, and as a result of that it could show but little tender-

ness for the feelings and sentiments of those people who, by social position or hereditary sentiment, were debarred from engaging in manly labour, or from applying for gratuitous relief. In short, their famine relief system, though it was not a harsh system, was a severe system, was a system made of strict rules, thought out by men of business, and from which their officers were not at liberty to deviate, no matter how much their feelings or sympathy with the distressed, or compassion for their sufferings, might tempt them to do so. That simple statement of the matter would suffice to show them that, though their system was not a harsh system, but was, on the contrary, a benevolent system, it must leave undone a great deal which a compassionate or tender-hearted person would like to do for the many calls of the distressed people at a time like that. It left large gaps to be filled by private charity. As to how private charity should set itself to work to fill these gaps and to supplement the Government relief system, he would say nothing. He left that to be discussed by other speakers who would follow him. At the present moment, he would merely wish to insist upon the fact that there was ample for private charity to do, and it was for that reason that they had ventured to call them together that day. There was one other remark that he desired to make in that connection, and it was necessary to do so in order to avoid misunderstanding. It must not be supposed from what he had said that they imagined that private charity had up to the present been dormant. Far from it. The charity of the people of that country in all times like the present had always been shown, and on the present occasion it had not been found wanting. Many individuals had done much towards relieving distress from their private pockets, and some of them had given subscriptions for that purpose. And apart from private individual efforts of that kind, there had been started in a large number of their considerable towns organisations for the collection and application of relief subscriptions. The funds that had been raised and had been spent were in some instances very considerable. They were all well aware of that, and they all fully appreciated the work that had been done in that way. The reason they had called the meeting was simply because they were anxious to see done on a larger scale, and for all parts of the Province where it might be necessary, that which had hitherto been done on a small scale and within a limited area. A question had been asked, and very naturally asked, as to what should be the relation between the movement which he hoped would be established there that day and those smaller movements which had already been started in various parts of the Province. He had no doubt as to what the answer to that would be. Those who were moving in the matter that day had no desire whatever to interfere with those who had been moving in various parts of the Province beforehand, but that, on the contrary, their desire would be to so form their arrangements as to fit in with the Government relief. There was only one other point on which he wished to say a word, and that was suggested to him by a letter which he had just received from the Bishop of Lahore. The Bishop wrote :—"I regret very much that it will be impossible for me to be present at the meeting on Saturday next in the Montgomery Hall, but the cause which it is called to promote shall have my heartiest co-operation," and then he went on to say "the Bishops of the Church of England had agreed to call upon their clergy to make collections everywhere on the first Sunday in March, which I hope will secure the contribution of many whose names would not be likely to appear in the subscription list." The suggestion which was involved in that was a very important one. They, of course, hoped to get some large subscriptions from some wealthy gentlemen; they hoped to get a good many reasonable subscriptions of a reasonable amount from less wealthy people; but they must not forget that a great many small sums mounted up to a large one, and they should look also to get small subscriptions from many who perhaps would not wish to put their names down in the subscription lists for the small sum they could afford to give. And the way, or at least one of the ways, to get the small subscriptions was indicated in the Bishop's letter. It must be remembered that it was not only Christians that met together on certain occasions for the purpose of worship, and it might be that it would be well for all those who met for the purposes of worship to follow the example set by the Bishops of the Church of England, and to have a bag sent around on one of those occasions; possibly it might come back after its circuit with contents which would be very acceptable to the Relief Fund. And he might add, not only on occasions when people met for the purposes of worship could such collections of small subscriptions be made, there were many local societies at which, if they thought the matter worthy of consideration, a similar course could be adopted. (Hear, hear.)

SIR WILLIAM RATTIGAN made the following speech :—"Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The resolution which I have been asked to bring forward is one which I am sure will not only receive the cordial support of all who are now present, but will also enlist the generous sympathy of the well-to-do classes in the Punjab. It is one which appeals to us all by a common sentiment of humanity, for in the presence of distress and poverty all mankind are kin. To alleviate the sufferings of those around us, to feed the poor and the orphan are precepts which are peculiar to no nation and to no religion; they are the dictates of the human heart, implanted by nature herself in the breast of every human being, be he Christian, Hindu or Muhammadan. At the present time unhappily this country is sorely afflicted. The grim and terrible spectres of plague and famine are abroad, and although Providence has hitherto been merciful to us in the Punjab, and we have as yet been spared the one, and been to a large extent relieved from all anxiety as to the other dire calamity by a timely rainfall, yet our ears cannot be closed to the cry of misery which comes to us from the North-West Provinces, from Bengal, and from other parts of

and the Provincial Executive Committee should therefore act in concert with the Local Government, and should see that the monies which they distribute are properly applied. He said that, having attended the Famine Relief Meeting at Calcutta, he was in a position to tell them something about the condition of the movement. He had also had occasion to study the papers connected with the movement somewhat closely, and was therefore able to explain what the objects were upon which private subscriptions would be expended. An obvious and conclusive reason for the whole movement was the resolution carried by the Government of India at the close of last year to receive subscriptions from England, and which made it obviously necessary that some organisation should be formed for the purpose of receiving those subscriptions and dealing with them. Not wholly on that account, but very largely on that account, the Viceroy held a meeting on the 14th January at Calcutta, which was followed by the appointment of a General Committee and an Executive Committee. A precisely similar course was suggested to be taken in the Punjab, Bengal, the North-West Provinces and Madras and already fallen into line like battalions to battle a common foe, and he felt sure they would all agree with him that the Punjab ought not to lag behind. The objects referred to in the resolution were the same as those set forth by the Government of India and adopted by the Calcutta Meeting. The Government of India set out several objects as specially legitimate for private relief. The first was to add small comforts in the way of food and clothing to those on relief-works, not to the able-bodied persons, but to the sick and infirm, the aged and the children. In doing that they would require the co-operation of the officers of Government. They would have to tell them who were on relief-works, and which of those people came into the category there described. Secondly, one of the objects set forth was to provide for the orphans, but that would come at the close of the famine. They had not much to do with that at the present time, but when it did arise, they would have to seek their information from the officers of the Government. The third object was more familiar. It was to relieve respectable persons, who would endure almost any privation rather than go on relief-works. That had been done to a large extent by the local arrangements already referred to, and with that good work the officers of Government had been co-operating, and no doubt would continue to co-operate as heretofore. The last object set forth was to restore to their original position persons who had lost their all by the famine. That again was for the close of the famine, and when they dealt with that they would have to seek the aid of the Deputy Commissioner, Revenue authorities, the Tashildar and his subordinates, to find out who they were who had lost their all, and what steps could be taken to restore them to their original position. In all those matters they would require the co-operation of Government officials, but if that concert was all they could look forward to, they would probably feel a little disappointment. But that was far from being the case. All he had said regarding the object to private relief by the Government of India was by way of illustration. The Government of India laid down two important principles. The first of those was that Government was responsible for saving the lives of the people, but it was essential to provide charity which, while working side by side with, would not interfere with nor overlap, the operations of Government. And the second object was that "there is ample scope for the exercise of private charity in mitigating suffering (mark the breadth of the phrase), and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution". If they looked to the first of those principles, that the operations of private charity should not overlap those of Government, he thought they would see at once that a concert between the Local Government and its officers and those who were engaged in that movement was absolutely essential. The second principle, that there was ample scope for private charity, was broad enough to carry all that had been done, and was being so admirably done, in the Punjab, and therefore they could, by the operation of that principle, secure their work without breach of continuity. But there was one other result, at all events, of that movement which was not down in the paper of the Government of India, and which would be claimed, he thought, more indirectly, but which was nevertheless of the greatest importance. He could imagine a criticism of the present Government to the effect, particularly in that Province, that they had been secured themselves against a severe famine by good winter rains, that private charity was doing very well, and that after all what was the good of making all that fuss and of calling for further subscriptions: if there was scarcity in other Provinces, let them take care of themselves. To that criticism with which he did not agree, there were several answers. In the first place, as he had already said, they must have been some organisation, as already money was beginning to come into that Province from the Central Committee in Calcutta. He had had a sum himself that afternoon. Secondly, as the Lieutenant-Governor had pointed out, they were by no means free from crushing prices and crushing prices produced exactly that sort of distinction which it was one of the special objects of private charity to relieve. (Cheers.) In the third place, and that was very important, what they subscribed, according to the resolution went, unless otherwise specified, to the Punjab. Nevertheless, it formed part of the General Fund, and in helping their own Province they were also helping the Imperial movement. That led him to another point which he particularly wanted to point out that the movement should be looked at from an Imperial and not exclusively from a Provincial point of view. If they did that, he did not hesitate to say that the criticism he had supposed was one that was somewhat narrow-minded, somewhat ungenerous, and somewhat wanting in sympathy for suffering humanity. But it was more than that. In

his humble judgment it would be a grave political mistake. If there was one thing more than another which had impressed itself upon his mind during that movement, it was its great political significance. Let them cast their mind's eye over the map of the world; let them look at the small and large expanses of red which marked in all climes the great maritime and continental Empire, the greatest that history had recorded; let them remember that those patches of red were connected together by ports, coaling stations by a network of wires carrying important tidings from one end of the Empire to another, and by the broad tracts of ocean for our fleets. That great Empire was one of which they were all fellow-subjects, and what was likely to be one of the results, and to which mind one of the most important results, of that movement, was that from all parts of the Empire sympathy would be evoked for those who were suffering in the famine-stricken districts of India. That was a point which they should not lose sight of—the enormous Empire from which that sympathy would be called forth. In concurring with the other Provinces of India in supporting that movement, they were striking what he might call an appealing chord which would vibrate as it were by electricity to the furthest ends of that great Empire, and awaken there a responsive chord full of sympathy to suffering India, and thereby would add to the political strength of that great Empire of which the Punjab, and even British India itself, were merely component parts. (Applause.)

Mr. SHAH DIN seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Right Rev. Dr. PELKMANS proposed, and Rai Bahadur BRIJ LAL GHOSE seconded the following resolution, which was carried:—"That subscriptions be received for the relief of distress in any part of India; but that subscriptions contributed through the Punjab Committee shall be deemed to be subscribed specially to meet the needs of the Punjab, unless the subscriber expresses some other intention.

A vote of thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor for presiding, proposed by Colonel Sir BENJAMIN BRONHEAD, and seconded by Diwan RAM NATH, closed the meeting.

The following subscriptions to the fund were announced:—

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND, PUNJAB BRANCH.

	Rs.		Rs.
J. R. Maconachie, Ontario . . .	200	Lala Dule Shah, Lahore . . .	200
L. W. Dane, I.C.S., Lahore . . .	300	Mian Jamal-ud-din, Bagwanpura . . .	100
Nawad Addull Ghafur Khan, Tera . . .	1,000	Pandit Janki Pershad, Lahore . . .	150
Sardar Sujan Singh, Rawalpindi . . .	500	Malik Umar Hayat Khan, Shahpur . . .	2,000
Sodihi Indar Singh, Ferozepore . . .	500	Khushdil Khan, Kohat . . .	200
Munshi Gulab Singh, Lahore . . .	600	Seth Rattan Singh, Kohat . . .	100
Sardar Rattan Singh, Jhelum . . .	500	Sardar Muhammad Hayat Khan, C.S.I., Jullundur . . .	500
Rai Bhadur Gagar Mall, Amritsar . . .	500	Ashik Muhammad Khan, Multan . . .	100
Raja Harbans Singh, Shekhupura . . .	1,000		
Lala Rocha Ram, Abbottabad . . .	500		
Mian Karim Bakhsh, Lahore . . .	200		
		Total . . .	13,600

AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED.

From the "Civil and Military Gazette", dated 10th February 1897.

At a meeting of the Punjab Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, held at the Lawrence Hall at 3 o'clock on Monday, the 8th February, the following resolutions were passed:—

- I.—That the Executive Committee shall consist of the gentlemen named in the list annexed; and that the Committee shall have power to add to its number:—Sir William Rattigan, *Kt.*; Mr. E. B. Francis; Revd. Dr. J. C. R. Ewing; one Judge * of the Chief Court (the Judges to be invited to name one of their number to be a member of the Executive Committee); Colonel J. B. Hutchinson; Mr A. E. Hurry; Revd. E. J. Warlow; Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I.; Rái Bahádúr Gangá Rám; Mr. D. P. Masson; Rái Bahádúr Madan Gopál; Lála Rám Saran Dás; Colonel G. F. L. Marshall, C.I.E.; Khán Bahádúr Muhammad Barkat Ali Khan; Colonel Sir Benjamin Bromhead; Colonel M. C. Brackenbury, R.E.; Mr. E. F. Jacob; Bhai Mian Singh; Mr. J. S. Beresford; Mr. L. W. Dane; Mr. M. W. Fenton; Mr. Alweyne Turner; Munshi Gulab Singh; Pandit Gopi Nath; Mian Karim Bakhsh; Mr. C. H. Atkins.
- II.—That the functions and powers of the Provincial Committee be delegated to the Executive Committee.
- III.—That the Executive Committee shall have power, amongst other things, to elect its chairman and appoint a secretary and other officers.
- IV.—That brief quarterly reports of the proceedings of the Executive Committee be circulated to all members of the Provincial Committee.
- V.—That although the conduct of the executive work of the Fund has been delegated to the Executive Committee, it is to be understood that every

member of the Provincial Committee will be at any time at liberty to attend any meetings of the Executive Committee.

The following further subscriptions to the Famine Fund were announced:—

	Rs.		Rs.
Previously acknowledged . . .	13,600	Mr. E. C. Jassawala, Lahore . . .	100
Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick . . .	1,000	and Rs. 25 monthly.	
Sir William Rattigan . . .	1,000	Lala Ram Saran Das, Lahore . . .	500
Sir Charles Roe . . .	200	Painda Khan, Jhelum District . . .	100
Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I. . . .	500	Arjan Singh, Chahal, Amritsar . . .	25
Right Revd. Dr. Pelkmans . . .	500	Sardar Jagat Sing, C.I.E., Sialkot District . . .	30
Bawa Khem Singh, C.I.E. . . .	5,000		
and Rs. 200 monthly till the rabi harvest is reaped.		Total . . .	22,555

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 11th February 1879.

Present :

Sir W. RATTIGAN, *in the Chair*.
C. L. TUPPER, Esq., C.S.I.
Colonel MARSHALL, R.E., C.I.E.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
A. E. HURRY, Esq.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.
E. F. JACOB, Esq.
Rev. Dr. EWING.
A. TURNER, Esq.

Rev. E. J. WARLOW.
Rai Bahadur GANGA RAM.
Rai Bahadur MADAN GOPAL.
Khan Bahadur BARKAT ALI KHAN.
Bhai MIAN SINGH.
Pandit GORI NATH.
Lala RAM SARAN DAS.
Mian KARIM BAKHSI.
Munshi GULAB SINGH.
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—Resolved that Sir William Rattigan be appointed Chairman and Mr. D. P. Masson, Secretary, with Mr. C. H. Atkins as Joint-Secretary.

II.—That the following gentlemen be appointed as a Sub-Committee to ascertain from all districts what has been done by Local Committees, and what these latter propose with a view to co-operation with the Provincial Committee :

Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I.
Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram,

Mr. D. P. Masson.
Mr. C. H. Atkins.

III.—That the Bank of Bengal be appointed Bankers to the Fund, and that all local Banks be asked to kindly receive subscriptions and forward them to the Joint-Secretaries or the Bank of Bengal; that the newspapers be asked to publish a notice that subscriptions will be so received or may be paid in to any local Treasury for transmission by Remittance Transfer Receipt; that the letter communicating the sanction of Government to the grant of such Remittance Transfer Receipts be circulated in English and Vernacular to the local officers; that withdrawals from the Bank Account be by cheque signed by the Joint-Secretaries.

IV.—That Government be asked to allow all correspondence issuing from the Secretaries, Provincial Executive Committee, and dealing with the business of the Famine Relief Fund, to be stamped with Service Postage Stamps.

V.—That a letter be sent by the Secretaries to the *Civil and Military Gazette*, the *Punjab Patriot* and the *Tribune* newspapers announcing the action taken by the Punjab Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund; that all sums received will be acknowledged from time to time in the newspapers; and that subscription lists are being issued which will be supplied to all who may be willing to undertake the collection of subscriptions.

VI.—That the Rs. 8,250 already received be handed over to the Secretaries, and that these and all other subscriptions be appropriated so far as may be to the purposes for which they are given by the donors.

VII.—That a telegram be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, stating that the probable requirements for the Punjab are—

Rs. 1,00,000	under head.	I
" 1,00,000	" "	II
" 3,00,000	" "	III
" 6,00,000	" "	IV,

but that the eventual demands may exceed the present rough estimate, which is framed on as low a calculation as possible.

VIII.—*Read* Circular letter No. 90, dated 2nd February 1897, from the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, informing the Provincial Committee of a Resolution passed by the Central Committee that the services of missionaries and other local agencies be utilised to the utmost in the collection and distribution of money. *Resolved*, that the letter be recorded, but that the Provincial Committee is already acting on the lines therein suggested.

IX.—That copies of the letter No. 35, of 25th January 1897, from Sir Francis Maclean, to H. H. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, be sent in English or Vernacular to all members of the Provincial Committee, and that those who have not already signified their willingness to serve on the Committee be asked to do so.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint-Secretaries.*

W. H. RATTIGAN,
President.

From the "Civil and Military Gazette," dated 15th February 1897.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, held at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 11th instant, Sir William Rattigan was elected Chairman, Mr. D. P. Masson, Secretary, and Mr. C. H. Atkins, Joint-Secretary. A Sub-Committee, comprising Mr. Tupper, Mr. Atkins, Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám, and Mr. Masson was appointed to report on the formation of Local Committees. The question of the custody and disposal of subscriptions was considered, and it was decided to ask the Bank of Bengal to open an account, and other Banks and Government Treasuries to receive subscriptions to be remitted to the Bank of Bengal. Communications from the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Calcutta, enquiring what amount the Punjab would require to draw on the General Committee, were discussed, and it was resolved to ask for eleven lakhs for the present. The Secretary of the Executive Committee was empowered to entertain an establishment of a clerk on R 50 and a peon; and as regards postage, Government sanction was to be asked to letters on Famine Relief matters being sent on the public service. Letters and telegrams connected with the Fund from private persons and others, and cheques and cash, amounting to R8,357, received up to date, including a remittance of R 5,000 as a first instalment from the Honorary Secretary, Calcutta, were made over by Mr. Tupper to the Secretary of the Executive Committee. A letter detailing the purposes of the Committee and the views of Government at greater length will be found in another column. The next meeting of the Punjab Executive Committee will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday next, the 16th instant, at 4-30 P.M.

Proceedings of a meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 16th February 1897.

Present:

Sir W. RATTIGAN, *in the chair*.
C. L. TUPPER, Esq., C.S.I.
Col. MARSHALL R.E., C.I.E.
E. B. FRANCIS, Esq.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.
Rev. E. J. WARLOW.

A. TURNER, Esq.
Rái Bahádúr GANGA RAM.
Khan Bahádúr BARKAT ALI KHAN.
Pandit GOPI NATH.
Lala RAM SARAN DASS.
Mian KARIM BAKHSH.
Munshi GULAB SINGH.
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—Resolved that the Committee approves of the action taken by the Sub-Committee appointed on the 11th instant in issuing a Circular letter to Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, and also approves of the terms of the letter.

II.—That the names now proposed be added to the number of those appointed Members of the Provincial Committee by the General Meeting of the 6th February; that the list of Members be now published with the name of Sir William Rattigan as Chairman; that the Commissioner's opinion be asked as to the addition of two other names recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar.

III.—That the following simple Rules of Business are deemed sufficient for the present, and are accordingly adopted:—

- (1) that a quorum of the Executive Committee consist of seven members;
- (2) that the Chairman, if present, preside at all meetings; in his absence the Committee will elect a Chairman for the meeting;
- (3) that the Secretaries be authorised to incur expenditure up to 200 rupees per month for contingencies, and report the amount expended from time to time to the Committee.

IV.—That the proceedings of the Provincial and Executive Committees be printed and also important letters issued and received by the Committees, and that copies be sent—

- (a) to Local Committees;
- (b) to Colonel Ottley, Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee, Calcutta;
- (c) to the Nawab of Loháru, who, to some extent, represents this Province on the Central Committee.

V.—A letter was read from the Nawab of Loháru asking for full information as to the needs of the Punjab in order that he may lay the case for this Province properly before the Central Committee. It was resolved that the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to the Nawab for his letter, and that he be supplied with copies of all proceedings and with all the information obtained by the Committee from time to time.

VI.—Resolved that Mr. Masson and Rái Bahádur Ganga Rám be authorised to buy 300 blankets at once at a cost of not more than R 3 each, and to send them to the Civil Officers in charge of the relief works on the Jhelum and Ghaggar Canals

VII.—Resolved that Mr. Tupper be asked to kindly frame proposals for a future meeting with regard to the method of affording relief to destitute land-owners and tenants by the replacement of cattle and the supply of seed: also that the Committee thanks Mr. Tupper for undertaking this labour.

VIII.—A letter was read from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Lahore, forwarding a subscription of R 500, and mentioning that he had issued a Pastoral Letter to be read in all the Churches of his Diocese as an appeal to the charity of the Catholic community, and it was resolved that the Committee records a vote of thanks to the Bishop for his kind letter and his subscription.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint-Secretaries.*

W. H. RATTIGAN,
Chairman.

The following is the list of names of the members and officers of the Provincial Committee passed at the meeting held on Saturday, the 6th February 1897:—

Present:

His Honor SIR DENNIS FITZPATRICK, K.C.S.I.

Chairman:

SIR WILLIAM RATTIGAN.

COMMITTEE:

Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble the Nawab of Loháru, C.I.E.
Bedi Khem Singh, C.I.E., Rawalpindi.
The Revd. Dr. Ewing, Lahore.
Mr. E. Nicholl, Amritsar.
Lala Murlí Dhar, Umballa.
Mirza Suraya Jah, Delhi.
Ram Kishen Das, Rái Bahadur, Delhi.
Sardar Jiwan Singh, C.S.I., of Shahzadpur, Delhi.
Raja Jai Chand, of Lambagraon, Kangra.
Bedi Suján Singh, of Una, Hoshiarpur.
Muhammad Hayat Khan, C.S.I.
Sardar Suján Singh, Rái Bahadur.
Sardar Bahadur Arjan Singh, Rawalpindi.
Lala Gagar Mal, Amritsar.
Nawab Fátteh Ali Khan, Lahore.

Sardar Sundar Singh, Majitha, Amritsar.
Mr. A. E. Hurry, C.S., Lahore.
Mr. D. P. Masson, Lahore.
Revd. E. J. Warlow, Lahore.
Rái Bahadur Madan Gopal, Lahore.
Muhammad Shah Din, Lahore.
Khan Bahadur Dr. Rahim Khan, Lahore.
Mr. S. S. Thorburn, C.S., Rawalpindi.
Major-General C. J. Moorson, Rawalpindi.
Sardar Yar Muhammad Khan, Gujrat.
Rái Sahib Lala Daulat Shah, Gujrat.
Sheikh Karm Dad, Gujranwala.
Revd. Mr. McCheyne Patterson, Gujrat.
Rái Shib Harnarain, Gujranwala.
Diwan Jawahir Mal, Shahpur.
Sardar Ratan Singh of Kala, Jhelum.
Panda Khan of Darapur, Jhelum.

Malik Umar Hayat Khan, Rawalpindi.
 Sardar Bahadur Jagat Singh, Sialkot.
 [The above-named gentlemen are members of the General Committee for India.]
 General Sir William Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., Rawalpindi.
 Sir Charles Roe.
 Colonel M. C. Brackenbury, R.E.
 Raja Harbans Singh.
 Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Hutcheson.
 The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Lahore.
 Major-General Sir George Wolseley, K.C.B., Mian Mir.
 Mr. P. C. Chatterjee, Judge, Chief Court.
 Colonel G. F. L. Marshall, C.I.E.
 The Right Revd. Dr. Pelkmans, Roman Catholic Bishop of Lahore.
 The Venerable Archdeacon Spens.
 Sardar Dyal Singh, Lahore.
 Kanwar Harnam Singh, Jullundur.
 Mr. J. S. Beresford.
 Mr. H. C. Lipsett.
 Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram, Lahore.
 Revd. Robert Clarke, Amritsar.
 Pandit Gopi Nath, Lahore.
 Mr. T. Bliss, Lahore.
 Khan Bahadur Sheikh Ghulam Hussain.
 Sardar Umrao Singh, Majithia, Amritsar.
 Mr. E. B. Francis, C.S.
 Lala Ram Saran Das, Lahore.
 Khan Bahadur Barkat Ali Khan, Lahore.
 Munshi Gulab Singh, Lahore.
 Rai Bahadur Dr. Brij Lal Ghose, Lahore.
 Diwan Ram Nath, Lahore.
 Rai Bahadur Bhai Mihan Singh, Lahore.
 Rai Shahib Fakir Chand, Batala, Gurdaspur.
 Muhammad Yar Khan, Multan.
 Nawab Muhammad Ashak Khan, Multan.
 Lala Ram Chand, Honorary Magistrate, Multan.
 Lala Balmokand, Lahore.
 Lala Sheo Parshad, Lahore.
 Mian Amin-ud-din, Baghbanpura, Lahore.
 Rai Bahadur Kastur Chand, Mian Mir.
 Mr. E. C. Jassawalla, Jamsetjee's Sons, Rose Cottage, Lahore.
 Mr. A. B. L. Cooper, Wine Merchant, Lahore.
 Lala Ram Chand, Amritsar.
 Lala Dholan Das, Amritsar.
 Lala Sant Ram, Amritsar.
 Lala Ganesh Das, Amritsar.
 Sheikh Gulam Kadir, Amritsar.
 Lala Ram Sukh Das, Sirsa.
 Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S., Dera Ismail Khan.
 Mr. A. H. Diaek, C.S., Dera Ismail Khan.
 Revd. Mr. Hoare, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Lala Sahib Ram, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Nawab Abdulla Khan, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Nawab Alladad Khan, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Azim Khan, Kundi, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Diwan Jagan Nath, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Gosain Nand Lal, Dera Ismail Khan.
 Nawab Sir Imam Baksh Khan, K.C.I.E., Dera Ghazi Khan.
 Khan Sahib Alla Baksh Khan, Saddozai, Dera Ghazi Khan.
 Rai Bahadur Hittu Ram, C.I.E., Dera Ghazi Khan.
 Darbari Lal, Dera Ghazi Khan.
 Khan Bahadur Abdulla Khan, C.I.E., of Isa Khel, Bannu.
 Mir Abbas Khan, of Bazar Ahmad Khan, Bannu.
 Khan Sahib Hak Nawaz Khan, Bannu.
 Attar Shab, Bannu.
 Khan Bahadur Saif-ulla Khan, Muzaffargarh.
 Seikh Ahmad, Muzaffargarh.

Sher Khan of Ahmedabad, Jhelum.
 Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan, Gheba, Rawalpindi.
 Lala Maya Das, Sahni.
 Mr. J. Brown, Murree Brewery, Rawalpindi.
 Mr. C. Dhanjibhoy, Khan Bahadur.
 Raja Jahandad Khan, Rawalpindi.
 Sardar Ghulam Muhammad Khan of Pindigheb, Rawalpindi.
 Mr. Joseph Greenwood, Sialkot.
 Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Massy, Jullundur.
 Sardar Partab Singh, Ahluwalia, Jullundur.
 Rai Kanhaya Lal, Honorary Magistrate, Jullundur.
 Lala Bhagat Ram, Barrister-at-Law, Jullundur.
 Sardar Bahadur Subadar-Major Ghulam Husain, Jullundur.
 Mian Mahbab Bakhsh, Honorary Magistrate, Jullundur.
 Raja Rugnath Singh of Amb, Hoshiarpur.
 Sodhi Ram Narain Singh, Hoshiarpur.
 Rana Lehna Singh, Hoshiarpur.
 Lala Mohkam Chand, Hoshiarpur.
 Jalal-ud-din Khan of Jahan Kalan, Hoshiarpur.
 Raja Narindar Chand of Nadaun, Kangra.
 Raja Ram Pal of Kullehr, Kangra.
 Sardar Hamdam Saddozai, Ludhiana.
 Sardar Badan Singh of Malaudi, Ludhiana.
 Faiz Talab Khan of Raekot, Ludhiana.
 Rai Bahadur Maya Das, Ferozepore.
 Bhai Zuffarjag Singh, Ferozepore.
 Sodhi Indar Singh, Ferozepore.
 Pandit Devi Chand, Pleader, Jullundur.
 Niyaz Muhammad Khan, Pleader, Jullundur.
 Lala Gopi Mal, Ferozepore.
 Mr. R. Clarke, C.S., Delhi.
 Revd. H. C. Carlyon, Delhi.
 Mr. Clarence Kirkpatrick, Delhi.
 Revd. S. S. Thomas, Delhi.
 Khan Bahadur Elahi Bakhs, Delhi.
 Hakim Abdul Majid Khan, Delhi.
 Sayad Sultan Mirza, Delhi.
 Lala Sri Kishen Das, Delhi.
 Lala Girdhari Lal, Pleader, Delhi.
 Rai Bahadur Hardhian Singh, Delhi.
 Rustam Ali Khan, Karnal.
 Sayad Aftab Husain, Karnal.
 Lala Joti Parshad, Jagadhri.
 Sardar Harnam Singh, Kharor.
 Lala Chandu Lal, Hissar.
 Rai Bahadur Jaswant Rai, Muzaffargarh.
 Mr. W. Merk, C.S., C.I.E.; Pesahwar.
 The Nawab of Amb, Peshawar.
 Muhammad Husain Khan of Garhi Habibulla Khan, Peshawar.
 Zeman Khan of Kilabut, Peshawar.
 Raja Sher Ahmad Khan of Khanpur, Peshawar.
 Rai Bahadur Lorinda Mal, Peshawar.
 Lala Hari Mal, Peshawar.
 Mr. Bunbury, C.S., Peshawar.
 Haji Ghulam Haidur Khan, Peshawar.
 Mir Fazal Ali Shab, Peshawar.
 Lala Dhuni Chand, Peshawar.
 Mirza Abdul Rahman, Peshawar.
 Bhai Nirmal Singh, Peshawar.
 Kazi Abdul Kadir, Peshawar.
 Pandit Pirthi Nath, Peshawar.
 Mufti Fida Muhammad, Peshawar.
 Lala Radha Kishen, Peshawar.
 Abdul Karim Khan, Peshawar.
 Lala Sundar Singh, Peshawar.
 Haji Malik Rahman, Peshawar.
 Lala Ralla Ram, Peshawar.
 Shahzada Sultan Jan, C.I.E., Peshawar.
 Seth Rattan Singh, Peshawar.

The Punjab Provincial Committee of the Famine Fund, in exercise of their power of adding to their number, elected the following to be members of their body at the meeting held on Monday, the 8th February 1897:—

Kanwar Suchet Singh, Jullundur.
 Khan Sahib Miyan Fazal Karim Khan, Jullundur.
 Lala Salig Ram, Jullundur.

Panna Shah, Bhera.
 Malik Mubarez Khan, Shahpur.
 Rai Diwan Chand, Shahpur.
 Mr. Naserwanji J. Jamsaji, Rawalpindi.

Lala Duni Chand, Amritsar.
 Malik Khazan Singh, Ahluwalia, Rawalpindi.
 Col. Jowala Singh, Manager, Golden Temple.
 Rai Pandit Janardhan, Lahore.
 Sardar Udham Singh, Chachi, Siālkot.
 Mr. Alweyne Turner, Barrister-at-Law.
 Mr. E. F. Jacob, Lahore.
 Mr. L. W. Dane, C.S.
 Mr. M. W. Fenton, C.S.
 Malik Hakim Khan, Nūn, of Shahpur.

Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, C.I.E.,
 Lahore.
 Mr. J. S. Middleton, of Messrs. Ranken & Co.
 Sardar Buta Singh of Rawalpindi.
 Lala Rocha Ram of Abbotabad.
 Pandit Maharaj Kishen of the *Ganekher Hind*,
 Lahore.
 Mr. Kunj Behari Thapar of the *Punjab Patriot*.
 Muhammad Ali Khan, son of Nawab Nur
 Ali Khan.

Proceedings of a meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 27th February 1897.

President :

SIR W. RATTIGAN, *Chairman.*

Members :

C. L. TUPPER, Esq., C.S.I.
 Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
 Colonel MARSHALL, R.E., C.I.E.
 Colonel BRACKENBURY, R.E.
 A. H. S. REID, Esq.
 J. S. BERESFORD, Esq.
 M. W. FENTON, Esq.
 A. E. HURRY, Esq.

D. P. MASSON, Esq.
 E. B. FRANCIS, Esq.
 Revd. E. J. WARLOW.
 Rai Bahadur GANGA RAM.
 Rai Bahadur MADAN GOPAL.
 Bhai MIAN SINGH.
 Pandit Gopi NATH.
 C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—The Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. P. Masson, read, for the information of the Committee, replies received up to the present from the Deputy Commissioners of districts. It was noted that charitable relief would probably be required for the following districts :—

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hissār. | 8. Mooltān. |
| 2. Rohtak. | 9. Lahore. |
| 3. Gurgāon. | 10. Gujrat. |
| 4. Delhi. | 11. Gujranwāla. |
| 5. Karnāl. | 12. Shahpur. |
| 6. Umbālla. | 13. Jhelum. |
| 7. Ferozepore. | 14. Rawalpindi. |
| 15. Amritsar. | |

It was further noted that the demands, as roughly estimated by the Deputy Commissioners, who have already stated their probable requirements, amounted to—

R	89,000	under	head	I
"	4,400	"	"	II
"	1,48,000	"	"	III
"	2,61,000	"	"	IV

or a total of Rs. 5,02,400, while at present only Rs. 1,36,000 are available for distribution.

The Committee was of opinion that the greatest need of the Province would be under head IV, and that, therefore, it was not advisable to at once expend a very large portion of the money available.

It appeared that in stating their demands under head I, the District Officers had allowed in some cases for objects which came within the scope of relief which Government had held to be its own province. For instance, the eight thousand rupees which the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum asked for in order to relieve beggars could not be brought properly under head I. If people were absolutely destitute, Government had already laid down for itself the duty of assisting them by the opening of some relief work, and it appeared, therefore, that in acceding to this request the Committee would be encroaching on the sphere of Government, and would, at the same time, be pauperising those assisted.

From the officers in charge of relief works it appeared that the men employed on such works were in good health, and were not greatly in need of further comfort or assistance beyond the means of subsistence given to them by Government. The immediate requirements seemed to be chiefly under the third head.

It was accordingly resolved that the following sums be allotted under head III, for the present, to the districts named :—

	R
Delhi	20,000
Karnāl	5,000
Umbālla	5,000
Mooltān	5,000
Lahore	10,000
Amritsār	5,000
Jhelum	8,000
TOTAL	58,000

And it was also resolved to suggest to the Local Committees of these districts that the cheap-shop system, which has been successfully tried in a number of districts, should be utilized as possibly the best means of affording the relief required.

II.—It was resolved that one hundred rupees per month be given to the Sabathu Leper Asylum for three months. The Asylum is a charitable institution, which has been placed in great difficulty owing to the present scarcity and high prices.

III.—It was resolved that local subscriptions already collected and received should be advertised in the newspapers, if the Local Committees report them for the purpose, but these subscriptions will not be incorporated in the Provincial Fund.

IV.—It was resolved that a copy of Mr. Thapar's letter, with its enclosure, be sent to Peshawar, Delhi, Amritsar, Ludhiána, Lahore and other places where there are skilled artisans, and that the Local Committees be asked whether they see their way to assisting such artizans in the manner proposed, and, if so, what grants they would require for the purpose.

V.—A letter was read from Colonel Massy, Commissioner of Jullundur, asking whether Native States were to be invited to subscribe to the Fund and to be assisted from the Fund. It was resolved that the question be referred to the Central Committee at Calcutta, as an important question of principle was involved.

VI.—It was resolved that a subscription of Rs200 from His Highness Sir Sher Muhammad Khan, K.C.I.E., Diwan of Palampur (Bombay Presidency), who is now travelling in the Punjab, be accepted and acknowledged with thanks.

VII.—It was resolved that Mr. Kunj Behari Thapar be elected a Member of the Punjab Executive Committee.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

W. H. RATTIGAN,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 16th March 1897.

Present:

Sir WILLIAM RATTIGAN, *Chairman.*

Members:

A. H. S. REID, Esq.
Colonel M. C. BRACKENBURY, R.E.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
Rev. E. J. WARLOW.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.

Rai Bahádur MADAN GOPAL.
MIAN KARIM BAKSH.
Pandit Gopi NATH.
Mr. KUNJ BEHARI THAPAR.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.

C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—Read a letter No. 96, dated 8th March 1897, from the Commissioner, Delhi Division, forwarding a letter from Captain Dunlop-Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Hissár. Captain Dunlop-Smith, in submitting the estimate of his requirements, raised a question which the Committee resolved to refer to the Central Committee for opinion.

This was a proposal to redeem land sold or mortgaged by small peasant proprietors to money-lenders on account of the famine.

It was suggested that sums expended for this purpose should be considered to be debts incurred by such proprietors, but debts paying no interest; that formal acknowledgments should be taken from the recipients, on which Government should be asked to remit stamp duty; and that when realised after the abatement of the famine, the money should be placed to the credit of a Fund to be termed the Permanent Famine Fund.

The Committee considered the idea a good one, though they had exceedingly little hope of sufficient money being available; moreover, they quite saw the many serious difficulties in the way of working such a proposal, *vis.*, the difficulty of distinguishing between alienations of land purely through pressure of the present famine and alienations due to other causes, such as improvidence.

There would also certainly arise the analogous question of redeeming house property similarly alienated for a similar reason, and which it would be to some extent illogical to refuse to redeem if agricultural lands were redeemed.

II.—Read Letter No. 237, dated 24th February 1897, and letter No. 321, dated 11th March 1897, from the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Central Committee, and a telegram of the latter date : also letter No. 496, dated 15th March 1897, from the Revenue Secretary to Government, Punjab, forwarding copy of a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy, in which the Committee's attention is directed to the importance of keeping the Central Committee supplied with full and early information as to all matters of importance in connection with the Fund.

It was resolved to reply to Colonel Ottley by telegram and by a following letter that the estimate of the demand of this Province had been confirmed by information since obtained from Local Committees and Officers, and that the Provincial Committee cannot reduce its demand if the work of relief is to be effectively carried out.

It is possible that there may be some re-appropriation of the money between the different heads, but the total of eleven lakhs is not excessive, anxious as the Committee is not to exaggerate the distress of the Province.

It was also resolved that Local Committees and Officers be asked to send in full reports and, so far as possible, interesting ones, giving details of the famine and of the working of the famine relief, and relating any incidents which may seem to them likely to be interesting to the British Public ; so that the Honorary Secretaries may also be able to send in fortnightly as full and interesting reports as possible.

III.—Read a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Rawalpindi Division, to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, stating that four lakhs would be required from Government for that Division alone if the full demands of Zamindars for loans for the purchase of seed and cattle were to be satisfied. This seemed to the Committee to show that a very much larger number of peasants must exist who are unable, by reason of their inability to furnish security, to take such loans, and are therefore very fitting subjects for charitable relief to give them a fresh start after the famine subsidies.

This seemed to confirm the opinion of the Committee that the largest needs of the Province would be under the fourth head mentioned in Enclosure A to the Government letter No. 64 of 23rd December 1896, and seemed to strengthen their appeal to the Central Committee on the question of the allotment to be made for the Punjab.

IV.—Read letter No. 303, dated 9th March 1897, from Colonel Ottley, announcing that the Central Committee approves of the principle that Native States should not be excluded from the benefits of the Funds, and that a letter is being sent to all Branches on the subject. It was resolved to await this letter before taking any action in the matter.

V.—Read letter Nos. 286 and 309 from the Honorary Secretary, Central Committee, announcing that certain articles were available for distribution, having been sent out by firms in England. It was resolved to ask for ten cases each of Mellins' Food, Triteine Food, and Condensed Milk, and one case each of Jayes' Sanitary Compound and of Meaby's Biscuits.

VI.—A suggestion was considered which was contained in a letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Amballa, No. 142, of 10th March 1897, to the effect that, with a view to stimulating local subscriptions, the Provincial Committee should agree to give Rs. 1,000 for every Rs. 1,000 subscribed in any locality. The Committee could not see its way to making such an agreement, as in this way the wealthiest districts would get the most money from the Fund, and this perhaps without reference to the extent of scarcity prevailing therein.

VII.—It was resolved that it was not, in the opinion of the Committee, advisable or necessary, as proposed by Pandit Gopi Nath, that members of the Provincial Committee should go round the Province to the various Local Committees and appeal for subscriptions at public meetings convened for the purpose.

VIII.—An application by Rai Bahadur Madan Gopal for help from the Fund on behalf of the Ferozepore Orphanage was considered, and it was resolved to refer the matter to the Local Committee for opinion as to whether the institution was deserving of a grant, and, if so, whether the help could be given from the local funds, or an allotment from the Provincial Fund under Head II was desired.

IX.—In connection with a letter, dated 13th March 1897, from the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, it was resolved that the Deputy Commissioner be again informed that the persons whom he is relieving seem to come into the classes which Government has itself undertaken the responsibility of supporting either by relief works or, if they are unable to work, by kitchens and poor-houses. It seemed therefore that the Deputy Commissioner's proper course was to start these institutions at Government's expense. As to the money already given, the Committee would be glad to be furnished with details showing to what extent it had been expended in *gratis* distribution of food. It was not intended that food should be distributed *gratis*, but sold at favourable rates, and the *gratis* distribution should be at once discontinued. As, however, the Deputy Commissioner had come to the end of his funds, and as it appeared that there was much distress in his district, it was resolved to send him a further remittance of Rs. 5,000, but at the same time to inform him that more could not be given till the Committee be satisfied that the expenditure is being conducted according to the principles already laid down.

X.—The estimates of requirements submitted by Local Committees since last meeting were considered, and it was resolved to send for the present the following allotments:—

To Jhelum	• R 5,000	under Head III.
To Rohtak	• „ 10,000	} under Heads I, II and III.
To Hissár	• „ 20,000	
To Gujrát	• „ 5,000	under Head III.

It was resolved to draw the attention of Local Committees once more to the necessity of adhering to the principles of distribution laid down by the Central Committee, and further to suggest to them that the cheap-shop system was perhaps the best means of affording relief under Head III.

With regard to the estimate submitted by the Deputy Commissioner of Gujránwála, it was resolved to enquire how the Local Committee was constituted, and whether there were any relief works started in the district. If not, the Committee failed to understand his application for R8,750 under Head I. The Committee could not make any grant till further information should be received.

XI.—It was announced for the information of the Committee that the present state of the Funds was as follows:—

	R	a.	p.
Contributions from Central Committee	2,15,000	0	0
Subscriptions received	38,234	13	5
Total	2,53,234	13	5
Alotted to Local Committees (including to-day's R40,000)	98,300	0	0
Purchase of Blankets for relief works	725	4	0
Petty Cash Advances	307	0	0
	99,332	4	0
Balance in hand	1,53,902	9	5
Total	2,53,234	13	5

XII.—On the recommendation of the Commissioner of Delhi, the following were added as members of the Provincial Committee:—

Lála Rám Chandar } of Hissár.
Lála Mutsaddi Lál }

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

W. H. RATTIGAN,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 30th March 1897.

Present:

Sir WILLIAM RATTIGAN, *in the Chair.*

Members:

C. L. TUPPER, Esq., C.S.I.
Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
A. H. S. REID, Esq.
L. W. DANB, Esq.
Rái Bahádúr MADAN GOPAL.
A. MEREDITH, Esq.
A. TURNER, Esq.

M. W. FENTON, Esq.
Bháí MIAN SINGH.
Míán KARIM BAKHSI.
Rái Bahádúr GANGA RAM.
Mr. KUNJ BEHARI THAPAR.
Pandit Gopi NATH.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.

C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—Mr. Hurry having been transferred from Lahore, it was resolved that Mr. A. Meredith be appointed member of the Executive Committee in his stead, and also be added as a member of the Provincial Committee.

II.—A telegram, dated 29th March, from the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, was read. The Vice-Chairman stated that the Central Committee can promise two lakhs in addition to the amount already allotted for the Punjab.

This seemed to the Committee to signify that more than two lakhs could not be relied upon. In that case it would be absolutely impossible to attempt to meet the demands of the Province under Head IV. The two lakhs would scarcely satisfy the requirements under the other heads, which had been estimated at five lakhs.

The contribution from the Central Committee, if limited to only two lakhs more, would amount only to Rs. 15,000 in all.

It was resolved to send another urgent appeal by telegram and following letters showing the necessity for a further liberal allotment under Head IV, and saying that the estimate under the other heads had been as low as it could be framed, and that all the money now allowed will be absorbed under those heads in relieving the immediate distress in the Province. There will then remain nothing for distribution under Head IV, and the consequence will be disastrous to very many of the small proprietors who form the backbone of the Province.

Great regret was expressed that the Central Committee seemed not to have fully appreciated the real needs of the Province, possibly for the reason that the initial demand had been so moderate.

III.—It was resolved to send 300 more blankets to Mr. H. C. Granville, the Executive Engineer in charge of the Jhelum Famine Relief Works, as he reported that those previously sent had been utilised and more were required.

IV.—The question of distribution of funds to the various Local Committees was considered.

The following allotments were made under Head III :—

	R
Lahore	10,000
Delhi	20,000
Ludhiāna	15,000
Rohtak	10,000
Amritsar	10,000
Amballa	5,000
Gujrat	5,000
Gurgaon	5,000
Karnal	5,000
Mooltan	4,000
Hissar	10,000
Total	99,000

and under Head IV, Rs. 1,000 were allotted to Lahore for men who had been hitherto engaged on relief works to enable them to reach their homes and start again when harvesting operations commence next month.

It was resolved to ask the Local Committee at Ludhiāna to try to carry out their proposal, which commended itself to the Provincial Committee, of affording relief to skilled artisans, and to send as full a report of their proceedings as possible.

The allotment to Amritsar was intentionally made small, as it was thought that the people there should have collected, and can still collect, more by local subscriptions.

V.—Read Letter No. 332, dated 12th March 1897, from the Honorary Secretary, Central Committee, with regard to the action to be taken towards Native States.

The letter was recorded, and it was resolved to consider the applications of Native States as they were received.

IV.—Read letter No. 5, dated 11th March 1897, from the President, Local Famine Committee, Jhelum, referring for orders a request of the Accountant-General, Punjab, that all contributions to the Fund should be paid into the Government Treasury.

It was resolved to send a copy of the letter to the Revenue Secretary, Punjab, with the opinion of the Committee, that this Committee and the Local Committees affiliated to it come in no way under the rules of the Famine Code, as they were not appointed by Government under the provisions of the Code.

VII.—It was announced for the information of the Committee that the state of the Funds was as follows :—

	R	a.	p.
Subscriptions received	42,431	12	8
Contribution from Central Fund	2,15,000	0	0
	2,57,431	12	8
Allotments to Districts (including to-day's allotments)	1,98,300	0	0
Blankets for relief works	725	4	0
Petty Cash expenses	308	11	6
Balance	58,097	13	2
	2,57,431	12	8

VIII.—As Sir William Rattigan was leaving for England, a vote of thanks was passed to him for his kindness in presiding over this Committee. The Committee regretted that he would be no longer able to help them.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

W. H. RATTIGAN,

Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 13th April 1897.

Present:

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman.*

Members:

Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
Colonel J. A. L. MONTGOMERY.
J. S. BERESFORD, Esq.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.

Mr. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPUR.
Rái Bahádúr GANGA RÁM.
Khán Bahádúr BARKAT ALI KHAN.
Pandit Gopi NATH.
Mián KARIM BAKHSH.
Munshi GULAB SINGH.

1.—A. H. S. Reid, Esquire, Judge, Chief Court, Punjab, was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee in place of Sir William Rattigan, who has proceeded to Europe.

2.—Colonel J. A. L. Montgomery and the Rev. C. D. Fothergill were elected members of the Executive Committee in place of Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S., C.S.I., and Rev. H. J. Hoare, respectively, both the latter having gone on leave.

3.—Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám reported that he had purchased and despatched the 300 blankets required by the Jhelum Relief Works as directed at last meeting.

4.—An appeal for assistance from the Manager of the Lahore Strangers' Home having been read, it was resolved that he be directed to make his application to the Lahore District Committee of the Fund.

5.—The Joint Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. P. Masson, stated briefly the contents of reports received from the Districts since last meeting, as follows:—

HOSHIARPUR.—A public meeting was held on the 27th March, Major Inglis, Deputy Commissioner, presiding. Subscription List was opened and Rs. 1,300 subscribed. Assistance, it is now considered, may be required for certain parts of the district, especially for the Unáh Tashil. A Sub-Committee was appointed to frame estimates.

FEROZEPUR.—The Honorary Secretary had received an urgent appeal from Deputy Commissioner for Rs. 1,000, which has been sent.

SHAHPUK.—According to previous reports no assistance would be required, but now considered that Rs. 21,900 will be urgently required between 1st May and 30th June for purchase of well and plough bullocks.

BANNU.—A public meeting was held on 11th March, which was well attended. A District Committee was appointed. Subscriptions over Rs. 2,000 collected. A grant will be required for Western Marwat, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to frame estimates.

JULLUNDUR.—A public meeting was held in Town Hall on 23rd March, the Deputy Commissioner presiding. A Committee was formed which affiliates with the Provincial Executive Committee; Sardár Muhammad Hayát Khán President. Sub-Committees are being formed in Tahsils.

GURGAON.—Subscription, Rs. 2,760 promised in response to Deputy Commissioner's appeal.

GUJRANWALA.—The District Committee had again applied for Rs. 17,500 a month under Head 1, while there are no relief works in the district. Joint-Secretary had again pointed out this anomaly, and had stated that no grant would be made by the Provincial Committee until carefully framed estimates were received. He had informed District Secretary in reply to an enquiry that the Committee might expend funds collected locally so long as they did so strictly in accordance with the rules laid down in "Enclosure A."

MONTGOMERY.—Public meeting held on 23rd March, Mr. P. J. Fagan, C.S., presiding. A District Committee was formed with Sub-Committees in Tahsils. Liberal subscriptions were collected.

6.—A letter from the Hon'ble H. E. M. James, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Central Committee, was read, stating that he would visit Lahore on the 18th and 19th current, suggesting how his time might be utilized and asking for information.

A Sub-Committee, consisting of Colonel Montgomery, Mr. Fenton and Captain Dunlop-Smith, with the Secretaries, was appointed to meet the Hon'ble Mr. James and afford all information.

A meeting of the Committee was fixed to be held on Monday, the 18th at 7-30 A.M., to meet and confer with him.

Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám, Executive Engineer, was deputed to personally conduct the Hon'ble Mr. James over the local Charitable Relief operations.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 20th April 1897.

Present :

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman*

Members :

Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
Colonel J. A. L. MONTGOMERY.
J. S. BERESFORD, Esq.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
Colonel BRACKENBURY, R.E.
Colonel MARSHALL, R.E.
ALWEYNE TURNER, Esq.
Revd. E. J. WARLOW.
Colonel Sir B. BRONHEAD.
E. F. JACOB, Esq.
MR. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPUR.

Rái Bahádúr GANGA RÁM.
Khán Bahádúr BARKAT ALI KHAN.
Pandit GOPI NATH.
Míán KARIM BAKHSH.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.

ALSO

The Hon'ble H. E. M. JAMES, Vice-Chairman
and Secretary, Calcutta Central Committee.

Captain DUNLOP-SMITH, } *Members of the Pro-*
LÁLA MUTSADI LAL, } *vincial Committee,*
LÁLA RAM CHANDAR, } *from Hissár.*

The Chairman asked Mr. D. P. Masson to state the exact position of affairs in the Province.

Mr. Masson said the original estimates were as follows:—Head I, one lakh; Head II, one lakh; Head III, three lakhs; Head IV, six lakhs. So far as could be made out from the most recent returns the requirements would be as follows:—Head I, R40,000; Head II, R20,000; Head III, R3,75,000; head IV, R8,05,000. That made up a total of R12,40,000, as against the original estimate of R11,00,000. The amount received from the Central Committee so far was R4,18,570, or just about a third of what was wanted.

Colonel Montgomery, Settlement Commissioner, read the following highly interesting note on the subject of deaths of cattle in the Punjab:—Last month the Financial Commissioner issued a Circular calling on all Deputy Commissioners to submit returns of deaths of cattle since June 1895 and to give estimates of the help they would require to replace the losses from disease or starvation. The returns are not yet complete. Such as they are they have been tabulated. The deaths are divided into those from epizootic disease and those from starvation. It is presumed that, so far as relief is wanted from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, it can only be asked to replace deaths from starvation. In the majority of districts the deaths from actual starvation have not been very great. But some districts have lost very heavily. The principal losers are given below (plough and well bullocks only, not milch cattle or calves):—

District.	Number died from starvation.	Total cattle in district by last enumeration.	Percentage of deaths on total.
Hissar	71,817	135,764	53
Karnal	6,000	154,787	4
Jhang	1,954	136,465	1
Sialkot	2,960	240,053	1
Gujrat	9,167	262,112	4
Shahpur	4,000	106,655	4
Jhelum	26,000	134,424	18
Bannu	4,872	87,211	6
Total	126,770	1,257,471	9

No returns have come yet from Kángra, Ferozepore, Lahore, Amritsar, Gujránwála, Rawalpindi and Dera Ismail Khan. It is likely that when they arrive it will be found that there has been an appreciable mortality in Ferozepore, Gujránwála, Ráwalpindi and Dera Ismail Khan. The greatest sufferer is Hissár. The Deputy Commissioner, Captain Dunlop-Smith, estimates that of the 71,817 shown as died of starvation, 29,944 died directly in this manner, and the remaining 41,873 were killed for food. There can be no doubt that in several districts cattle have been killed and eaten when there was no fodder left for them. The figures for Jhelum are only a rough estimate; it is possible that this estimate is exaggerated. But, on the other hand, the figures for the neighbouring districts of Gujrat and Shahpur may be below the mark. In many districts cattle have been sent off in large numbers to river banks to get what grazing they could; and thousands of animals have been kept alive by such poor food as chopped *kikar* twigs, and leaves and coarse thatching grass. The latter, though nourishing enough in its green state, can have very little nutriment in it in the winter months, when it is hard and dry. The estimated losses of cattle are from as early a date as June 1895. As a fact, however, far the greatest mortality has occurred since October 1896. For this reason the percentages of losses have been calculated on the agricultural returns for the year 1895-96. The estimated average price per head of cattle varies in the several districts from R10 (in Simla) to R40. The most common price given is R30, and this may be taken as a fair average of the whole Province. At this rate R38,03,100 is required to replace the cattle

lost in the eight districts alone which are given in the beginning of this note. for four more districts in which the losses have been considerable, we may set down fifty lakhs as the sum necessary to replace all the cattle lost in the two districts. But there is no reason why help should not be given to some of the whose losses have been less. Requests for help have come from several of the such help would be gratefully accepted. If we add another ten lakhs for the districts of the Province, we get a grand total of Rs60,00,000 as the value of the cattle from starvation. It is not, of course, proposed to attempt to replace. Many cattle owners are well enough off to buy fresh animals from their own resources, and have no credit left. Such persons are just those who can best be by free gifts from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. I think I am well within when I say that a sum of Rs15,00,000 could be well spent in this manner in the and I hope the Central Committee of the Relief Fund for India will be able to amount to the Province.

The Chairman, asked Captain Dunlop-Smith to let Mr. James and the C know what the extent of the cattle mortality was in his district.

Captain Dunlop-Smith said that the Financial Commissioner had sent Circular a few weeks ago asking for information on that head. He called for from the Tahsildars, and then he personally went over the returns and checked the facts he had gathered himself. The figures given for the districts were—L disease during 12 months ending March 31st, 5,317; died of starvation, 29,944; sla for food, 41,873: total 77,134. Those figures applied solely to bulls, bullocks & buffaloes, or, in other words, well and plough cattle. They amounted to 54 per cent total of those classes ascertained at the last stock-taking. Of the remaining 46 about 26 per cent. were taken away by their owners to grazing grounds in other and Native States, and the remainder 20 per cent. of the total were still left. C a good proportion of the cattle sent away had disappeared, so, roughly they m that over two-thirds and under three-fourths of their cattle had vanished. might be said that "this is all very well, and the Tahsildars and Deputy Comm may be trusted to give a good sound estimate of the losses, but there is no proof C He had a complete answer to that. Shortly after he took over the district he the B., B. and C. 1. Railway authorities, and asked them to send him returns of and bones exported from month to month from stations inside the Hissar district to outside. Those returns were an absolutely certain guide. According to them d 12 months ending 31st March 1897, 25,930 maunds of hides had been exported during same time under 100 maunds). The average weight of a hide was 15 s those returns represented 69,146 cattle! But there had been in addition a con export on country carts from those parts of the district far away from the railv course the hides included those of cows as well, but discounting that fact and add 20,000 hides for export by carts, they would see that his figures were not exag He was inclined to think they were under the mark. He certainly thought that the returns read out by Colonel Montgomery from districts he knew were ur mark. And it should never be forgotten that if a zamindar had no cattle "he car He might have plenty of land and plenty of rain, but he could not produce crops cattle.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M. James addressed an informal speech to the Co He read an extract from a letter to him from the Calcutta Committee, written a receipt of the Punjab Committee's telegram, and stating that there would considerable amount of money to distribute, and that the Committee would be pl re-consider the claims of the Punjab. Mr. James referred to the method which l adopted for the distribution of the funds, and said after various schemes l suggested the one which was eventually adopted was that which assumed the me the gravity of the famine by the money spent by the Government of India, and no number of people on Famine Relief Works, as the latter were in the main mere le and did not represent the actual need of the agriculturalist. The result was provisional measure they accepted that proportionate measurement, giving to th West Provinces $5\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupee, Bengal $3\frac{1}{4}$, Central Provinces, $2\frac{1}{2}$, Bomb and as the Punjab was only estimated to cost 12 lakhs, its share naturally came an anna. The result was that on a scheme of 50 lakhs the Punjab was er Rs2,18,750. They therefore sent an additional sum from Calcutta bringing up the contributions, etc., to Rs2,18,750; then they received the Punjab telegram. The Western Provinces had pointed out that if any amount was advanced for cattle it should be advanced at once in time to be of use for the *khari* harvest, and a case in the Punjab they would participate in the funds to the extent of Rs4,70,00 hundred lakhs they wanted the money at once. He (Mr. James) had been ti around trying to ascertain the relative needs of the various Provinces. Boi that particular apportionment was satisfied and did not want any more. extremely obliged to the Secretaries for the kind way in which they had fed him formation. He wished to point out that Hissar was, of course, an exceptional; d "broken district" like some of those in Bundelkhand and the Central Provinces

had received a shock that they would not recover from in ten, or twenty years, if then. He had seen several parts of India in that state. Under such circumstances he thought the Executive Committee would consider that those people were entitled to the first consideration. On the other hand, he had received a most excellent note pointing out the larger claims of the Punjab, on the ground that it was not fair that because they happened to be sturdier and better off people than the rest of India, and stood off from the relief works till the last moment, they should not therefore receive assistance, especially when the mortality in cattle had been so great. With that he personally agreed, and he should represent it strongly to the Executive Committee that the loss of the cattle had certainly entitled the Punjab to a larger consideration. Of course he would have to review all the papers by the Government of India and those given at Lahore in trying to make, so far as he could, a proposal for the Central Committee for the further distribution of funds. He would try and make it as fair as possible, and they might be sure that the arguments in favour of the Punjab would be most favourably represented. That he would be able to satisfy the Punjab or any other district was absolutely impossible. It was a very thankless task he had to do, as every one would say they had been specially ill-treated. Excepting in Hissár, Ráwalpindi, part of Karnál, and some other places, the distress in the Punjab appeared to be more a high-prices distress than an actual crop distress. In the places he mentioned he felt that there were great losses for consideration. On the other hand, they had a good deal of irrigation and there was a tendency to take the *kharif* crop at eight annas. Now eight annas was not a famine crop. Looking at it from a general point of view, he did not think the Punjab could say that it was on a par with the other distressed districts of India. There was the very exceptional case of the agriculturalist, who was a very worthy fellow, and he would represent his interests, and the more the Punjab got the more he (Mr. James) would be pleased. There was only one question he would like to be assured on, and it would support him in getting the further grant if he could assure the Committee at Calcutta that the preparations for the distribution of the money were complete. Unless preparations were complete, and unless it was known where and to whom the relief was to be distributed, it was better not to give relief at all, as all experience showed that money given away in a hurry was useless. Referring to the Heads I and III, he thought the Committee might go into them again with the view to further economies. He found wherever he went that the Government relief was so very adequate and thoroughly organized, and he had no doubt it was the same in the Punjab, that the relief from the funds under Heads I and III was quite a minor concern. As far as orphans were concerned, they were under the care of Government. Referring to distress amongst the respectable poor, Mr. James said he found that was a popular way of distributing funds. Everywhere he had been to he found that ladies and gentlemen of position had gone to great trouble in making out lists and distributing the relief. He wanted the Committee to consider whether more reductions could not be made under Heads I and III, because the more they reduced there the more they could have for Head IV.

Colonel Hutchinson pointed out that Heads I and III affected a class of people that Head IV did not touch. It was not the agriculturalists that suffered the most; the majority of their districts were fairly well off. The Zemindars were not so hard up, but it was the respectable poor in the towns who suffered.

Mr. L. W. Dane corroborated the remarks of Colonel Hutchinson. There were eighteen thousand, more or less, families at Delhi who lived by gold embroidering, etc., and whose average monthly income was Rs 3-8-0 a month. The Committee had done what it could to supplement those sums, and the largest grants had gone to Delhi. In Ludhiana also, where there was a colony of Kashmiris, they had endeavoured to supplement the small wage.

Mr. Turner said it was a fodder famine in the Punjab. There had been an enormous loss of cattle in Shahpur, and there was a fear that many of the agriculturists who had lost their all would, if assistance was not forthcoming, join the criminal tribes.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. James, which was seconded by Mr. L. W. Dane, and replied to by Mr. James, who said that coming from Sindh he knew pretty well the circumstances of the Punjab.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 12th May 1897.

Present :

F. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman.*

Members :

J. S. BERESFORD, Esq.
Colonel BRACKENBURY, R.E.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
Rev. E. J. WARLOW.
ALWEYNE TURNER, Esq.
D. P. MASSON, Esq..
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

Khán Bahádúr BARKAT ALI KHÁN.
Bhai MIAN SINGH.
Rái Bahádúr MADAN GOPAL.
Pandit GOPI NATH.
Mr. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPUR.
Mian KARIM BAKHSH.
Munshi GOLAB SINGH.

I.—A Resolution passed by the Central Committee at their last meeting was considered.

The Resolution, so far as it concerned the Punjab, was as follows :—

"The question, whether a further distribution of funds should be made was then discussed at considerable length. The Chairman stated that he had had an interview with Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Holderness on the matter, and that they were of opinion that one-third of a crore might be further distributed on the basis previously adopted by the Resolution of the 22nd March last.

"The Hon'ble Mr. James proposed that no further allotment of funds be made till he had submitted his report concerning the famine-stricken districts, which he would draw up with an estimate in the course of four days, and that in the meantime he thought it would be better for the Committee not to apportion any funds on the old basis, which was a purely theoretical one, not founded on the actual requirements of the different Provinces.

"On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens, it was resolved, the Vice-President dissenting, that upon the footing of one-third of a crore being distributed, the following further distribution and payments be made to the following Provinces :—

	R
North-Western Provinces	11,45,834
Bengal	7,29,166
Central Provinces	5,20,833
Punjab	1,45,833
Madras	1,45,833

but that at present no further distribution of payment be made to Bombay or to Upper Burma :.....and that the sum of R1,45,833, payable under this Resolution to the Punjab, be treated as part of the R2,00,000 payable to that Province under the previously named Resolution of the 29th March last. The remittance of the sum of R2,00,000 to the Punjab, which had already been effected, was approved."

A subsequent telegram, dated 11th May, from the Vice-President of the Central Committee, was also read. In this it was announced that four lakhs had been sanctioned in addition.

As the Committee understood this information, the meaning was that four lakhs had been allotted in addition to the R4,18,750 already received, making a total allotment for this Province of R8,18,750. In that case the Committee had in hand available for distribution R6,90,530, the account to date being—

RECEIPTS.	R	DISBURSEMENTS.	
Allotments by Central Committee	8,18,750	Allotments to districts	2,00,759
Subscriptions	73,048	Expenses	509
		Balances	6,90,530
	<u>8,91,798</u>		<u>8,91,798</u>

2. The reports from districts received since the last meeting were next considered and discussed ; the points in them worthy of note were as follows :—

AMRITSAR.—During the fortnight ending 15th April 1897, R3,044 have been spent, besides a certain amount spent in gratuitous relief. Two hundred and six shoe-makers are employed, who support in all about 1,157 souls. The expenditure on this has been R2,635-7-9, but most of this, it is hoped, will be recovered. Over a thousand women have been employed in spinning cotton yarn ; 358 of these are supervised by the ladies of the Church Missionary Society. Three hundred and fifty workers are engaged in weaving the yarn spun. Nineteen thousand persons were relieved by the

distribution of tokens representing a certain value of flour. Altogether 21,842 people are in receipt of relief. The total of subscriptions locally received is Rs. 7,625-11-3.

RAWALPINDI.—For the fortnight ending 30th April.—Fewer people are now receiving relief. The expenditure has been Rs. 709-8-0. The price of grain is falling.

ROHTAK.—For the month ending 30th April.—Cheap-shops are being opened for the sale of flour on credit at favourable rates to those absolutely penniless, the Local Committee retaining the option of subsequently realising or remitting the loan; four such shops have been started in the district, small advances being given to each for initial outlay.

UMBALLA.—Report, dated 19th April.—One hundred and eighty women, mostly high caste Muhammadans, are being employed in spinning, and the cheap-shop system is being carried on. The Honorary Secretary, Lala Murli Dhar, gives graphic descriptions of famine scenes, which have been incorporated by the Honorary Secretaries in their reports to the Central Committee. The money allotted up to the present has been appropriated as follows:—

	Rs.
City cheap-shop	2,000
Cantonment	2,000
Spinning	1,000

The demand for aid under Head I has been reduced from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1,000 or less.

HISSAB.—Mr. Floyd and Mr. Wakefield, the officers in charge of the relief works, report how the blankets were distributed. Mr. Butler, C.S., Honorary Secretary of the Local Committee, sends a vivid description of the ways in which the charitable funds are being spent to supplement the efforts of Government, which are, of course, aimed at the mere preservation of life. The ladies of the Baptist Zenana Mission are rendering most efficient help in Bhiwani, and are able to reach the women. Of the funds in the hands of the Local Committee, Rs. 200 have been allotted to each Tahsil to supplement the Government existence ration in the poor-houses, Rs. 300 have been allotted for orphans, of whom there are some in the poor-houses, Rs. 5,000 for spinning and grinding and for gratuitous doles, Rs. 500 to assist Miss Theobald's relief operations.

KARNAL.—The money is being devoted mainly to the relief of *parda-nashin* and Musalman-Rajput women. Relief is given with as little publicity as possible.

JHELUM.—The President of the Local Committee reports that the amount expended in gratuitous relief is Rs. 1,720. He does not think the case justifies an appeal to Government for the starting of kitchens or poor-houses, but that there certainly are people absolutely in distress, and who, owing to the stoppage of gratuitous relief, now borrow from the bania enough money to get a ticket and then repay the bania by taking only half the excess obtainable over and above the market rate.

The expenditure to date has been Rs. 10,824 and the receipts Rs. 16,701, (Rs. 13,000 from the Provincial Committee). He estimates the requirements for the purchase of cattle at Rs. 50,000.

JHANG.—Over Rs. 5,000 have been subscribed locally.

BANNU.—Rs. 20,000 are asked for for the purchase of seed and cattle, as there is distress in one part of the district.

SIALKOT.—Rs. 5,000 are asked for for the purchase of plough and well cattle.

MOOLTAN.—The Local Committee asks for Rs. 3,000 more under Head III and Rs. 7,000 under Head IV.

DELHI.—The Local Committee asks for Rs. 6,500 more.

MUZAFFARGARH.—The Local Committee asks for five, two, three and five thousand rupees under Heads I to IV, respectively.

MONTGOMERY.—The demand on our funds is estimated at Rs. 12,000 under Head III and Rs. 12,500 under Head IV.

3.—It was proposed by Mr. Thapur and seconded by Mr. Fenton that a grant of Rs. 10,000 be made to Amritsar in response to an urgent appeal by Mr. Nichol for funds to afford employment to the workers of silk embroidery and gold lace. These men have been thrown out of work by the famine and the plague.

The proposal was not carried.

4.—It was then proposed by Mr. Thapur and seconded by Mr. Fenton that a grant of Rs. 5,000 be made to Amritsar for carrying on the excellent work of relieving women and children on the lines already adopted.

The proposal was carried.

5.—It was proposed by Mr. Thapur that further relief be given to Delhi, but the Committee thought that the question of a further allotment to Delhi under Head III might be allowed to stand over for a time, now that prices have gone down considerably.

6.—It was proposed by Pandit Gopi Náth and seconded by Bhái Mián Singh, that Rs.5,000 be allotted to Lahore for the assistance of the work of female relief now being carried on by Miss Fox and Miss Bose.

The proposal was carried.

7.—It was proposed by Mr. Fenton and seconded by Colonel Brackenbury that the meeting be adjourned till Friday, the 14th, for consideration of the question of allotments under Head IV, as Colonel Montgomery and Mr. Dane were not present.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 14th May 1897.

Present :

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *in the Chair.*

Members :

Colonel J. A. MONTGOMERY.
J. S. BERESFORD, Esq.
L. W. DANE, Esq.
Rev. E. J. WARLOW.
A. TURNER, Esq.
M. W. FENTON, Esq.
Bhái MIÁN SINGH.

Mián KARIM BAKHSH.
Rái Bahádúr GANGA RAM.
Munshi GULAB SINGH.
Mr. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPÚR.
Khán Bahádúr BARKAT ALI KHAN.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

1.—A discussion of some length took place with regard to the method of distribution of the funds to be allotted under Head IV for the purchase of seed and cattle.

In answer to a telegram sent by Mr. Masson asking whether the four lakhs last allotted to this Province are in addition to the Rs.4,18,150 actually paid, and whether this is to be considered a final allotment, a reply had been received from the Vice-Chairman of the Fund in Calcutta as follows :—

“The four lakhs are an additional to fresh allotment ; no further general distribution is likely to be made before July, and whether Punjab then will get more cannot say.”

The Committee accordingly decided to distribute six and-a-half lakhs at once out of the Rs.6,89,000 now at their disposal.

It was suggested by Colonel Montgomery that as he had only just returned from camp and was not prepared to make full proposals, the work of allotment should be placed in the hands of a small Sub-Committee, which should include himself.

It was necessary to do something at once because the time was now approaching when the relief would be required, and also because the Committee would be broken up by the departure of some of its members to Simla.

The suggestion was not, however, fully adopted, and finally Mr. Dane proposed and Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám seconded the following proposal, which was unanimously carried :—

“That the Committee proceed to the allotment of six and-a-half lakhs among the Revenue Divisions of the Province and to the appointment of a Sub-Committee, which, in consultation with the local Revenue Officers and Local Committees, should determine the internal distribution among the Districts of the Divisions.”

2.—Colonel Montgomery then proposed and Mr. Fenton seconded that the Delhi Division, which is much the worst, should receive three lakhs. Ráwalpindi, one lakh and-a-half, Lahore, one lakh and thirty, Jullundur, fifty thousand, and Deraját, twenty thousand.

The Resolution was passed.

3.—Mr. Fenton proposed and Khán Bahádúr Barkat Ali Khan seconded that the Sub-Committee consist of Colonel Montgomery, Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám and the Honorary Secretaries.

The Resolution was passed.

4.—Mr. Thapur proposed and Rái Bahádúr Ganga Rám seconded that the distribution be made in cash and not in cattle or seed, and that Local Committees be instructed accordingly ; the proposal was carried, and to prevent the money being misspent or misappropriated, it was further resolved that the Local Committees be requested to arrange that the seed or cattle be inspected after purchase by some trustworthy person.

2. As the whole of the money had not yet been received from Calcutta, it was resolved to send first to those districts where the money was required at once, and where it was known that enquiries had already been completed and lists drawn up for the distribution. The other Local Committees should be first asked whether they have prepared lists, and in case this has not been done, they should be advised to do this at once, as it was most necessary that first of all lists should be prepared, after full and careful enquiry, of the persons most deserving of reliefs.

D. P. MASSON, }
C. H. ATKINS, } *Joint Honorary Secretaries.*

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 15th June 1897.

Present :

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman.*

Members :

A. MEREDITH, Esq.
A. TURNER, Esq.
Rai Bahadur GANGA RAM.
Lala RAM SARAN DAS.

Khan Bahadur BARKAT ALI KHAN.
MR. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPUR.
PANDIT GOPI NATH.
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—Read letters Nos. 747 and 857, dated 10th and 20th May 1897, respectively, from the Vice-Chairman of the Fund in Calcutta, asking that all contributions, even though received and expended locally, should be brought into the accounts of the Provincial Committee.

It was resolved that the suggestion be adopted, and that such contributions be shown as expended in the localities where they were subscribed.

II.—The proceedings of the Sub-Committee appointed at the previous meeting were read for the information of the Committee, together with letters from the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, from the Commissioner, Rawalpindi, from Mr. Masson, and from Colonel Montgomery.

It was resolved that of the Rs40,000 remaining unallotted of the amount assigned to the Lahore Division, Rs20,000 be given to the Lahore District and Rs20,000 to the Ferozepore District, each district thus receiving Rs70,000 in all.

A reserve of Rs33,600 still remained in the hands of the Provincial Committee, and out of this it was decided to allot Rs5,000 to Hoshiarpur.

Of the Rs10,000 left unallotted by the Sub-Committee from the grant of Rs20,000 for the Derajat Division, the whole was given to Dera Ismail Khan District as recommended by Colonel Montgomery.

The Committee increased the allotment made by the Sub-Committee to Rohtak District by Rs10,000, to be paid from the reserve of Rs33,600. With regard to Siakot, for which the Commissioner was of opinion that a grant was required, the Committee considered it unnecessary to make a grant, as none had been asked for, as Colonel Montgomery, who knew the district, had not recommended any.

With regard to the grant to Rawalpindi, of which the Commissioner asked that Rs10,000 might be taken away and left in his own hands for distribution as he should think fit among the other districts of his Division, the request was granted and the allotment to Rawalpindi District was reduced by Rs10,000, which sum was given to the Commissioner of the Division to allot as he should think appropriate.

III.—A statement prepared by Mr. Masson was laid before the Committee, showing that, after deducting the sums allotted previously to the present meeting, the Committee had in hand a balance of Rs33,601-1-0 on the 31st of May 1897.

The account is as below :—

I.—RECEIPTS.

	R	a.	p.
(1). Subscriptions paid to Provincial Fund, after deducting Rs971-1-0 subscribed for Central Fund and remitted to Calcutta	77,031	7	6
(2). District subscriptions for local needs	1,45,493	14	1
(3). Contributions from Central Committee	8,18,750	0	0
TOTAL	10,41,275	5	7

II.—EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES.

	R	a.	p.
(1) Retained by Districts for local needs	1,45,493	14	1
(2) Head I.—Expenditure	1,459	8	0
(3) Heads II and III.—Expenditure	2,08,560	0	0
(4) Head IV.—Expenditure, <i>viz.</i> —			
Remitted to Districts	5,08,000	0	0
Allotted, but not yet remitted, to districts	93,000	0	0
Held in reserve, as per proceedings of Sub-Committee of 15th May	50,000	0	0
(5) Petty expenditure			
Balance available			
	6,51,000	0	0
	1,160	14	6
	33,601	1	0
TOTAL	10,41,275	5	7

IV.—With regard to certain letters from the local Secretary at Anritsar, from Miss Thiede and others, it was resolved that, as prices had fallen very considerably, there seemed at present no necessity for further grants under Heads I, II and III.

V.—A bill submitted by the *Punjab Patriot* office for Rs350, for the insertion of the lists of subscriptions in its columns, was laid before the Committee for orders.

It was resolved that the Committee must decline to pay the amount. It was true that payment was being made to the *Civil and Military Gazette* for similar insertions, but this was because the latter paper had been adopted by the Committee as the recognised channel for the acknowledgment of subscriptions, and a definite agreement was come to with the Editor of the paper, who refused to publish the lists free of charge. No agreement had been made with any other paper, but the lists were sent them merely as a matter of courtesy, to be inserted or not as they wished.

VI.—Mr. Atkins, Joint Honorary Secretary, informed the Committee that four bales of female clothing, received by the Central Committee from England, had been allotted to the Punjab for distribution.

Letters had already been received from the Local Committees of Delhi and Hissár asking for some of the clothing, and Mr. Meredith, Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, pointed out the need for an assignment to Lahore also.

It was resolved to allot one bale each to Delhi, Hissár, Lahore and Ludhiána.

VII.—A letter was read from the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Calcutta, announcing that three cargos of grain were to arrive shortly, and asking what amount would be required by the Punjab.

It was resolved to ask the Deputy Commissioner of Hissár what amount he would require, and to ask the Central Committee to allot this amount, if possible.

VIII.—The Joint Honorary Secretary informed the Committee that he had received from some artisan of Ludhiána a pair of curtains which the maker asked the President to buy as he was in distress.

It was resolved that the man must be referred to the Local Committee at Ludhiána.

IX.—Several communications from the Central Committee, on which action had already been taken where necessary by the Honorary Secretaries, were laid before the Committee for information.

X.—Reports received from several districts were laid before the Committee for information:—

HISSAR.—The District Committee acknowledges, with hearty thanks, the receipt of the intimation of the allotment of Rs2,22,000. The preparations for distribution are complete.

LUDHIANA.—Submits an account of the expenditure and announces that over a lakh of people have been relieved in the district. Cheap-shops have been closed from the 1st June.

LAHORE.—Lists of people for relief under Head IV are being prepared. An Assistant or Extra Assistant Commissioner will be put in charge of the distribution in each Tahsil.

UMBALLA.—The Revenue Assistant will be sent round to distribute the relief.

KARNAL.—The Local Committee has prepared lists and is ready for the work of distribution. The Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Harrison, Assistant Commissioner, will supervise the work.

GUJRAT.—The lists are being prepared under the supervision of the Revenue Assistant; the Deputy Commissioner will himself distribute the relief at certain centres in the district.

SHAHPUR.—An Extra Assistant Commissioner will superintend the distribution in each Tahsil.

JHANG.—As in Shahpur.

RAWALPINDI.—Submits reports of expenditure and announces the distribution of the district allotment among the various Táhsils. That the distribution will be made by the Tahsil Sub-Committees under the supervision of the Revenue Officer and the Assistant Commissioner of Attock.

BANNU.—The allotment will be given entirely for plough cattle. An Extra Assistant Commissioner will supervise the distribution.

JHELUM.—Lists have been prepared by a Sub-Committee. The money will be sent round and distributed by Táhsildars.

ROHTAK.—The cheap-shop system of relief has been unpopular and has now been stopped. Lists of people requiring grants for cattle are being prepared. The money will be distributed by an Extra Assistant Commissioner. Relief is being given by making arrangements for watering cattle.

Other districts have sent in simply accounts of their expenditure.

C. H. ATKINS,
Joint Secretary.

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 6th July 1897.

Present:

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman.*

Members:

A. TURNER, Esq.
Rái Bahádúr GANGA RAM.
Rái Bahádúr MADAN GOPAL.

Bháí MIAN SINGH.
Rái GULAB SINGH.
Lála RAM SARAN DAS.

C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

The meeting was called to consider a Circular No. X P, dated 21st June 1897, from the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, inviting applications for further grants, as 30 lakhs, which remained in the hands of the Central Committee, were probably to be distributed during July. Applications were to be received in Calcutta by the 10th July.

The Honorary Secretaries had sent copies of this Circular to the Commissioners of Divisions and to a few District Committees, inviting them in their turn to make applications for further grants to meet special and urgent cases. Replies had been received from the Commissioners of Lahore, Delhi, and Jullundur Divisions, and from all the districts invited, except Amritsar and Ráwalpindi.

Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery, Settlement Commissioner, and Mr. M. W. Fenton, Revenue Secretary, had sent letters in regard to the Circular, but were unable to be present at the meeting.

All these letters were accordingly considered by the Committee. The applications received were as follows:—

DELHI—R7,000 for relief of respectable poor from now till the middle of October.

LUDHIANA—R20,000 for replacement of plough and well cattle lost by starvation and disease.

GUJRANWALA—R5,000 as an additional grant for cattle.

LAHORE—R30,000 ditto ditto.

JHELUM—R20,000 ditto ditto.

GUJRAT—R15,000—R10,000 as an additional grant for cattle, and R5,000 for distribution in relief of the respectable poor.

FEROZEPUR telegraphed that a further large grant would be needed if the rains failed. Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery, and Mr. Thorburn, Commissioner of Ráwalpindi, (in a previous letter) were of opinion that Siálkot should receive a grant. R5,000 were asked for for that district. Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery, and Mr. Gordon-Walker, Commissioner of Jullundur, were of opinion that Ludhiána was the next worst district in the Jullundur Division after Ferozepur, and needed a large grant for cattle.

Mr. M. W. Fenton wrote that, though he did not know of any special cases such as were mentioned in the Circular, he knew that Hissar, the south of Rohtak and the west of Gurgáon required as much help in replacement of cattle as they could get. Replies had, however, been received from Hissár and Rohtak that the grants already received seemed sufficient at present.

The Commissioner of Delhi replied for his whole Division, which includes Gurgáon, that no further grants were needed.

distribution. Minutes last Meeting have reached them. I have promised Jhelum ten thousand in reply to urgent telegram. Rain everywhere; immediate distribution necessary. Meeting might be held in Simla as districts have sent very little data. Financial Commissioner will know more particulars."

At the last meeting, held at Lahore on the 6th July, it was resolved to ask the Central Committee for one lakh, the details for a total of R1,02,000 being given for seven districts. As the sum granted by the Central Committee is less by 25 per cent. than that asked for, it becomes necessary to reduce the grants for each of the districts named.

It was resolved finally to distribute the money as follows :—

Districts.	Original allotment.	Now allotted.
	R	R
Delhi	7,000	5,000
Ludhiana	20,000	14,000
Gujranwala	5,000	4,000
Lahore	30,000	20,000
Jhelum	20,000	16,000
Gujrat	15,000	13,000
Sialkot	5,000	4,000
TOTAL	1,02,000	76,000

The R1,000 over and above the sum sanctioned by the Central Committee to be granted out of the balance in hand.

The action of the Secretary in granting R10,000 to Jhelum is confirmed: this will be part payment of the R16,000 now allotted.

It being a matter of great importance that the money should be distributed to the several districts without delay, the Honorary Secretary to be requested to obtain the amount sanctioned by the Central Committee immediately.

SIMLA,
22nd July 1897. }

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 19th October 1897.

Present :

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *Chairman.*

Members :

Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
A. TURNER, Esq.
Rev. E. J. WARLOW.
Rai Bahadur GANGA RAM.

Bhai MIAN SINGH.
Mian KARAM BAKHSI.
D. P. MASSON, Esq.
C. H. ATKINS, Esq.

I.—The proceedings of the informal meeting held at Simla on the 22nd July were confirmed.

II.—Mr. Masson, Joint Honorary Secretary, stated that the meeting had been called mainly to report to the Committee the action that had been taken by the Secretaries since last meeting, but also to consider some applications for fresh allotments.

In most districts the work of distribution of the allotments had been completed, and as a rule, most satisfactorily.

An Auditor appointed by the Local Government for the purpose had audited the accounts of many districts, and his reports were generally very favourable.

In many districts the amounts allotted had been spent and found adequate for the measures of relief adopted.

In some the allotments had been in excess of the requirements, and sums had accordingly been refunded.

In others, again, more money was still required to complete the scheme of relief.

In Gurgaon the Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of his Local Committee, asked for R6,000, which he had spent on free grants of cattle and seed. The money had actually been spent, through a misunderstanding, from the Government grant for *takavi* loans, and he asked the Provincial Committee now to make the amount good.

On the proposal of Colonel Hutchinson, seconded by Rai Ganga Ram, it was resolved that the Rs6,000 should be granted for the purpose stated, as the expenditure was properly debitable to the Charitable Fund.

III.—An application from Montgomery for a further grant for cattle and seed was considered. The District Committee explained that they had originally asked for Rs25,000, but had received only Rs15,000. The other Rs10,000 were urgently needed in the riverain tracts, and could be most profitably utilized for the *rabi* harvest. The Auditor had reported that the methods adopted in Montgomery were excellent. Colonel Hutchinson proposed, and Mr. Turner seconded, that the Rs10,000 be granted. The proposal was carried.

IV.—Mr. Masson next brought to the notice of the Committee the case of Ludhiana, where a large balance of Rs20,500 remained unexpended.

Mr. Rose, Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana, was present at the meeting, and asked to be allowed to retain the money which, as he explained, he had distributed sparingly, as he wished to utilize it in redeeming small holdings which had been mortgaged on account of the famine.

The Committee was of opinion that this could not be allowed, as, although the purpose was quite legitimate and in accordance with the objects of the Fund, there was not enough money for it to be carried out generally, and it was not fair that the plan should be adopted in Ludhiana alone. Mr. Rose's attention was called to Resolution I of the meeting of 16th March, in which Captain Dunlop-Smith had made a similar proposal. Mr. Rose then asked to be allowed to spend the money on grants of cattle and seed, which were much needed, but which he had thought less urgently required than grants for redemption of holdings. The Committee resolved to allow this if Mr. Rose could distribute the money by the end of November in time for the *rabi* harvest.

V. A letter from Mr. Fenton was read, in which he proposed grants for Hissár and Karnál for the purchase of blankets. It was pointed out by Mr. Masson that both districts had balances still in hand, and they might be asked to buy blankets from these. It was resolved accordingly.

VI. Mr. Masson raised the question of refunding half a lakh to the Central Committee for the use of other Provinces, where, according to reports received from the Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee, money is still very urgently required.

It was, however, thought that much was still needed here for blankets, etc., as the death-rate from exposure was reported to be very heavy.

It was accordingly resolved to defer for the present the question of refunding any portion of the balance.

D. P. MASSON,
C. H. ATKINS, } *Honorary Secretaries.*

A. H. S. REID,
Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab Provincial Executive Committee, held at the Municipal Hall, Lahore, on the 5th November 1897.

Present:

A. H. S. REID, Esq., *in the Chair.*

Members:

Colonel J. B. HUTCHINSON.
Colonel J. A. L. MONTGOMERY.
The Hon'ble LALA MADAN GOPAL,
Rai Bahadur.
Khan Bahadur BAKAT ALI KHAN.

M. W. FENTON, Esq.
ALWYENE TURNER, Esq.
Munshi KARAM BAKHSH.
Rai Bahadur GANGA RAM.
Mr. KUNJ BEHARI, THAPUR.

D. P. MASSON, Esq., } *Honorary Secretaries.*
C. H. ATKINS, Esq., }

Captain J. R. DUNLOP-SMITH was also present.

Before the Proceedings commenced, the meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, recorded an expression of condolence with Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress on the melancholy occasion of the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck.

I. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Masson that the Hon'ble Mr. S. S. Thorburn, Financial Commissioner, and Captain Dunlop-Smith, Director of Land Records, be added as members of the Executive Committee. The proposal was carried unanimously.

II. Mr. Masson introduced for discussion and for the orders of the Committee the question of the disposal of the surplus funds still remaining in the hands of the Committees of several districts.

In Hissár there was a balance of Rs1,500 in hand. This was needed for the purchase of blankets, etc., and it was resolved that the money was still required in Hissár and should be left with the District Committee.

III. In Kárnál there was a large balance of Rs,5,000 which the District Committee reported to be a part of the amount subscribed locally. They did not wish to return money, and now proposed to expend it on purchase of blankets and on other legitimate purposes.

It was resolved that the money should be left with the District Committee seemed to be still required, on the understanding that they do not travel off the line down by the Central and Provincial Committees.

IV. In Gujránwála there was a surplus of Rs,9,000 which the District Committee to be allowed to keep for the contingency of another bad season, or the possibility of high prices.

The Provincial Committee was of opinion that this was not a legitimate purpose present Fund. As crops were now good and prices were falling, possible future scarcity could not be considered a consequence of this famine, and the funding of money by Committees was expressly forbidden.

It was resolved to request the District Committee to refund the unexpended balance as soon as possible.

V. In Gujrát there was, according to the latest report up to 30th September reported by the Secretaries, an unexpended balance of Rs,42,000 out of Rs,48,000 allotted by Head IV.

The Honorary Secretary pointed out that this District Committee had begun to use the monies of the Fund in ways which did not come within the lines ordained, and consequently found it necessary to point this out to them. Thereupon they had begun to prepare lists, etc., on the proper lines, but this preliminary work appeared to be incomplete and the actual distribution was not yet begun.

The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction and regret that the District Committee appeared to have failed to realise the responsibilities it had undertaken, and had lost opportunity of giving relief that had been much needed and would have been so appreciated in parts of this district which were seriously distressed.

It was resolved that the Auditor lent by Government should be at once sent to find out the exact position of affairs and to inform the Committee, if possible, where the money could still be properly utilised there.

The Committee would then decide whether any or all of the balance should be refunded.

VI. A discussion then took place about the question of refunding any portion of the balance now in the hands of the Provincial Committee.

Certain sums had been refunded by districts, and it appeared that the time for returning all this money in the Punjab had now passed.

Something must be kept in hand for blankets and clothing for the winter and other urgent needs consequent on the late prolonged distress.

It was resolved, on the motion of Colonel Hutchinson, seconded by Colonel Montgomery, that after providing for these, Rs,40,000 might still be refunded to the Committee, and the Honorary Secretaries were instructed accordingly.

VII. Proposals were made by the Hon'ble Lála Madan Gopal and by Khan Barkat Ali Khan that grants of Rs,500 each should be made to the Ferozepore and Lahore Orphanages.

Mr. A. Turner proposed by way of amendment that a grant should be made to the Orphanage for every orphan of this famine who should appear to be a native of the Punjab.

After some discussion the proposals were withdrawn, and the movers accepted the proposal of Colonel Hutchinson, which was as follows:—

That it appears that there are in the Orphanages of this Province practically a few children of the Punjab who have become orphans in this famine, but that children have been brought to them from the Central Provinces and other parts of India, and it is necessary that a special fund has been set apart by the Central Committee in Calcutta for the maintenance of orphans of this famine in India generally.

That it did not, therefore, seem expedient that this Committee should, without sending information, make any grants to such institutions from its own funds, but should, if necessary, apply for grants from the special Fund in Calcutta.

But that the Deputy Commissioners of Lahore and Ferozepore be asked to inform the Committee, after enquiry, whether there are in fact any orphans of this famine in the Orphanages of those cities who belong properly to the Punjab, and, if so, how many there are.

Should the present information of the Committee be found incorrect, the matter should then be re-considered, if necessary.

This proposal was seconded by Mr. Fenton and was passed.

D. P. MASSON,

C. H. ATKINS,

} *Honorary Secretaries.*

A. H. S. RILEY

Chairman

APPENDIX B.

Letter No. 4676, dated the 11th December 1897, from M. S. D. BUTLER, Esq., Secretary, Hissar District Charitable Relief Committee, to Captain J. R. DUNLOP-SMITH, President of the Hissar District Charitable Relief Committee.

Under cover of this letter, I beg to submit for your approval a draft of a Report on the working of the District Committee of Hissar during the past few months. It is divided into four parts, and attached to it are seven Forms A and the same number of Forms B. The Report explains itself.

2. With reference to the item of R17,306-8-7, shown as local subscriptions in Form A, a few words are necessary to explain an apparent discrepancy between that total and the figures returned by me in the usual monthly cash accounts submitted to the Provincial Committee. The monthly receipts reported amounted to R17,562-6-7, to which should be added two sums of R144-12-0 collected by Miss Theobald, and R5-6-0 realised in Sirsa, making in all R17,712-8-7. The excess of R406 over the total now returned is explained as follows:—

A sum of R200 was reckoned as a subscription which had been advanced as a loan from the District Board Funds in order to start operations. This has now been repaid. A sum of R100 was erroneously credited to this Fund, as already reported on by me, owing to a mistake of a Siāha Nawīs, and has now been transferred to its proper head, and in a similar manner and with a similar result, R31 were inserted in the Committee's books. The remaining error of R75 is due to my having reckoned, by mistake, two items of R50 and R25 both in the District and the Hissar Town Committee's receipts. All these errors have now been traced and adjusted, and, with the exception of the item of R31, were explained to Mr. Harris when he audited the Committee's account. The item of R31 was discovered after his visit.

3. Nothing, it will be observed, has been said in the Report about the system of accounts pursued by the Committee. This has been done purposely, as the Central Committee has seemed to wish to take this matter out of the District Committee's hands.

The accounts of the Committee have been audited by the gentleman appointed for that purpose, and as no copy of his criticisms has as yet been received, it has not been thought proper to touch upon the subject.

4. With reference to the question of records, I have to report that I have applied to the Secretary to the Provincial Committee to know what he desires to be done with the considerable mass of papers accumulated. I have asked especially what is to be the fate of the receipts which are filed in my office for, I think I may say, every item of disbursement.

5. The report, it will be observed, is an *interim* one. A balance of R5,766-1-1 remains, of which R1,601-7-3 is in the hands of two local Committees. The remainder, *viz.*, R4,164-9-10, has been, or is being, spent on the purchase of blankets. A separate Report on this matter will be submitted in due course. I have also heard during the last few days of one or two further claims on the Fund, which, if sustained, will be met from the resources still at the Committee's disposal. They are all small. A considerable difficulty has been found in obtaining supplies of blankets.

6. In writing the first three Chapters of this Report, I have drawn entirely, it is hardly necessary to say, on the Famine Report of the District now being written.

HISSAR DISTRICT CHARITABLE RELIEF COMMITTEE.

PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.

	Page.		Page.
Chapter I.—Description of the District . . .	503	Chapter IV.—Unsystematic Relief . . .	508
„ II.—Previous Famines . . .	504	„ V.—Systematic Relief . . .	56.
„ III.—Causes of the present Famine . . .	506		

CHAPTER I.—DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. The Hissár District lies between 28°36' and 30°1' north latitude, and 74°31' and 76°22' east longitude, and forms part of the great alluvial plain between the rivers Sutlej and Jumna. In its physical features it presents a mean between the rich cultivation of Ferozepore, Karnál, and the Cis-Sutlej States and the arid barrenness of Bikanir. In accordance with a time-honoured division its soil falls into four main classes. To the north of Ghaggar in Sirsa there is a light loamy tract of inconsiderable dimensions, known as the Rohi to the south of the stream, and along the whole of the west border lies the great Bággar country. The soil in this part is very sandy, and the surface of the ground is broken by low mounds of varying and fantastic shape, the creations of the summer dust-storms. To the north-east of this tract and bounded by the railway on the south and a line drawn between Tohána and Fatahabad on the north is the Hariána or "green" portion of the district, which formed the scene of the exploits of the French and English military adventures of a century ago, and which is characterised by a good light loamy soil; while to the north and north-west of this tract and along the Ghaggar bed is found the stiff clay of the Náli Circles of former settlements. The district is surrounded almost entirely by Native States, but for a few miles it touches British territory in the districts of Ferozepore and Rohtak.

2. Hissár stands seventh in order of size among the thirty-one districts of the Province, and with an area of 5,188 square miles is nearly equal in magnitude to the county of Yorkshire, or half of the kingdom of Belgium. Its cultivated area is 4,068 square miles, but the average amount actually sown, as ascertained at the last Settlement, was only 2,327 square miles, or 45 per cent. of the total.

3. The irrigated area of the district has been strikingly extended during the last five years from a total of 79,300 to 141,121 acres. Almost the whole of this tract is served by the Western Jumna Canal, and a still further increase has been obtained by the construction during the present famine of the Ghaggar Canals, which are expected to supply some 50,000 acres more, so that in future nearly 200,000 acres will be secured by artificial irrigation.

4. Besides the canal watered area given above, there are 3,593 acres under well cultivation. This insignificant total is due to the fact that except in the Ghaggar Valley the spring level is more than 100 feet below the surface of the soil, and accordingly the cost of well construction and maintenance is prohibitive. It is though instructive to note that during the present year, when the people were driven by the pressure of famine to unusual exertions, no fewer than 143 new unbricked wells were sunk in the Bhiwáni tahsil, which were instrumental in raising 1,716 acres of crops.

5. The prosperity of a district in which the opportunities for artificial irrigation are so limited is thus made to depend on the amount and character of the annual rainfall, and it is unfortunate that there is no part of the Province where this is at once so variable and so partial. During the ten years from 1886-87 to 1895-96 inclusive, the average yearly rainfall for the whole district has amounted only to 16.58 inches, while variations between the totals of the various Tahsils show the striking difference of 17.95 inches as the average for the same period for the Bhiwáni, and 13.85 for the Sirsa Tahsil. This topic might be pursued further, and there are figures available to produce even more startling results, but it will suffice to say that even in years of good rain one village may receive an ample supply, while another in the same circle may find its crops ruined for want of it. The reason is that Hissár, lying as it does on the outer edge of the monsoon vortex, obtains its rain in the shape of thunderstorms, which travel in an erratic course, and are seldom of more than an hour's duration.

6. The communications of the district are almost as precarious as its rainfall. Apart from the Rewári-Ferozepore line of railway, which runs right through the centre of the district from Bhiwáni on the south-east to Kálánwáli on the north-west, there is really very little to boast of at

all. The whole length of metalled road amounts only to 18 miles, and is contained almost entirely in the civil stations of Sirsa and Hissár, and is therefore a negligible quantity. In the Hariána and Náli tracts, where the soil is comparatively firm, there are unmetalled roads, which, except in the three rainy months, are more or less practicable for cart traffic, but in the Bággar country there are nothing more than tracks across the sand, and traffic is entirely maintained by camels. In no part are there trees along the roadside, as experience has shown that they only serve to bank up the sand, which in the summer months is blown about in violent dust-storms for weeks together, and which, if allowed to collect in any one spot, renders it quite impassable for any sort of wheeled traffic. Apart from these drawbacks it cannot though be said that, except after a heavy fall of rain, there are any serious obstacles to traffic, for the dearth of water in the summer months along the trade routes is met by the maintenance of a series of water-posts (*pias*) during May, June and July on all the main lines of communications.

7. At the census of 1891 the total population of the district was ascertained to be 776,000, of whom 87½ per cent. were classed as rural, and 12½ per cent. as urban. The average density of population per square mile is just under 150, a figure which falls far short of the average of the Province. It is difficult, owing to the frequent alterations in its boundaries, to ascertain whether there has been from time to time any increase in the population of the district, but it would appear that there has. It is clear though that what there has been, has been but slight. Before the present system of relief was organised it was customary for the people in the recurring periods of the scarcity to leave their homes and migrate to more favoured tracts, and their places were only taken, after a series of good seasons had held out temptations to fresh immigrants, by new settlers, who perhaps in the course of another cycle would themselves be driven out by another period of famine. Since 1881 a well-defined increase in the number of female immigrants seems to prove that the descendants of the original colonists still seek their wives in their ancient homes.

Population.

8. The distribution of the various tribes and castes, of which Jats form 27·1 per cent. and Musalmán Rájputs 12·9 per cent. of the whole total may be shown roughly as follows:—To the north of the Ghaggar in Sirsa are to be found the few Sikh Jats of whom the district can boast. Along the banks of the river live Pachhadás, a thriftless Muhammadan tribe of cattle-lifters, and to the south of them, throughout the Bággar country of Sirsa, and the western part of the other four tahsils, the Bágri Jat. The Hariána tract is characterised by an admixture of Rájputs, who are mostly Muhammadans, and Deswáli Jats, but the latter largely predominate, while to the north of them in the Náli Circles are found Musalmán Ránghars and Pachhadás, with some admixture of Sikh Jats from Patiála and Muhammadan Dogars from the north.

Tribes and castes.

9. The baniás are the leading commercial class, and have acquired proprietary rights in the land over a large portion of the district, partly owing to the persistence with which in previous times of scarcity they have bought up the land of impoverished agriculturists, and partly owing to the constant use which at the present day they make of the law of conditional sale. It is not too much to say that at the present time the aristocracy of the district is entirely baniá in caste and also in feeling.

Baniás.

10. Of the other tribes the Bishnois alone call for any comment. They are Hindús by religion, and are characterised by the reverence which they show for life in any form, whether of man or of beast. Though inconsiderable in number, they are the most provident and careful cultivators in the district, and their first appearance on Relief Works during the present year was always carefully watched for as affording a certain proof of severe famine in the localities from which they came.

Bishnois.

11. From the various facts detailed above it will be obvious that, while the district depends entirely for its prosperity on agriculture, it is subject to the most precarious and partial rainfall; scarcity is always possible; and at certain intervals famine of varying degrees of intensity has to be reckoned with. Land, however, is plentiful; the pressure of population on the soil is slight, and the land revenue is based on low rates, and is, moreover, lightened in bad years by liberal grants of suspensions. The people, too, are provident and accustomed to their precarious position, and the yield in good years gives them a surplus, which enables them to tide over the recurring periods of scarcity, provided they are not unduly prolonged. In fact, if the years of dearth be discounted, it is not too much to say that in ordinary years the material prosperity of the peasantry of Hissár is higher than that of the rural population of many of the congested districts of the Punjab, where nature has lavished all the advantages of climate and situation.

Ability of the district to support itself in ordinary times.

CHAPTER II.—BRIEF ACCOUNT OF PREVIOUS FAMINES.

12. The Hissár District has always felt the severest shock of any of the great famines which have devastated the country to the south of the

The chálisa kál.

Sutlej. The first one of which there is any credible record is that of 1783, which forms the era of the district, and is spoken of this day as the

chálisa kál. In their Report the Famine Commissioners of 1877 wrote: "Nowhere can the famine have been more acute than in the Hissár Division;" and in the History of the Sikhs, Lieutenant Cunningham says: "A famine desolated Hariána: the people perished or sought other homes. Sirsa was deserted, and a large tract of country passed at the time from under their regular sway, and could not afterwards be recovered by the Sikhs." Major Wace, in his evidence before the Commission, stated that "in Hissár the famine literally depopulated the country. At its close hardly any of the original inhabitants remained. Few villages now existing even pretend to a history which goes back to a period before the famine, and there is not one that does not date its present form of tenure from the time when cultivation was resumed."

13. No mention is made in any records of the famine of 1803-4 which affected this part of the Punjab, but it was undoubtedly felt. From this, however, which prevailed in the Rájputána States in 1812-13, this district probably escaped. From 1832-34 there was acute suffering throughout Hissar; in one of these years almost the whole of the revenue had to be suspended.

14. The famine of 1837-38, while raging most severely in the country between Agra and Cawnpore, was experienced also in Hissar. The mortality was great, and two tides of migration which then set in from Rájputána into Hissár and from Hissár towards Bulandshahr have left their mark. The two striking features of this famine were the prevalence of aimless wandering and of violent crime. Over four lakhs of revenue were suspended in the Hissár Division, and half-a-lakh in Sirsa.

15. The famine of 1860-61 proved most disastrous to this district. The harvests of 1858-59 had been poor, and there was an almost entire failure of crops in 1859-60, and the kharif harvest of the latter year was an entire failure. It was estimated that 192 persons and 38,000 cattle died of absolute starvation, while 21,400 persons and 47,500 cattle left the district. Relief Works, however, were not opened until February 1861, when all prospect of the spring harvest had disappeared, and in a fortnight the daily total of workers had amounted to 11,021, while the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief were 10,252. At the end of April these figures were 12,123 and 40,377, and at the end of May 18,985 and 60,161, respectively, and relief operations did not close until the October of 1861. The interesting points in the relief operations of this famine are two in number, and show both a striking contrast and striking similarity to the measures adopted during the present year. In the first case in 1860-61 gratuitous relief was looked upon as the main remedy for the prevailing distress; whereas in 1896-97 it has been quite an insignificant subsidiary to other operations, while, on the other hand, the wisdom of making liberal advances to cultivators at the close of the famine, which was first acted upon in 1860-61, has been one of the main features of the policy pursued in the present scarcity.

16. Barely seven years have elapsed when the district was again visited by a similar calamity. The rains of 1866-67 were deficient, and there was great mortality among the cattle, and the autumn crops of 1867 amounted to but half of the average yield. The winter rains were unusually heavy, and there was every prospect of a bumper crop, when undue prolongation of the night frosts withered one-third of the harvest in the early days of March, and the attacks of rust and other blights destroyed the remainder. The heavy, but, as it turned out, ineffectual, winter rains appears to have prejudiced the summer downfall and the hot weather of 1868 was marked by intense heat, and the slight showers which fell during July in the south of the district only served to lure the unfortunate peasantry into the expense of sowings which were not destined to bear fruit. By the month of October the price of wheat had risen to 11 seers to the rupee, while gram, the cheapest grain, was selling at 14½. By December wheat had risen still further to 8½.

17. By the end of September 1868 poor-houses were begun to be opened and Relief Works to be started, but the scarcity was only at its commencement. The winter rains again proved a failure, and the spring harvest of 1869 did not come to maturity, and cattle began to die by thousands. By the month of May distress became acute, and the hordes of famished Bikaneris, who straggled over the border, only served to accentuate the crisis. No rain fell during June and July, and scarcely any in August, and it seemed as if the fate of the district was sealed, when on the 7th of September abundant showers fell, and a late autumn crop was secured which served to keep people alive until the spring of 1870, when an exceptionally large rabi harvest was reaped.

18. If the traditional *chálisa kál* of 1783, of which no real record exists, be excepted, the famine of 1868-69, known among the people as the "famine of eight sérs," must be reckoned as second only in intensity to that through which the district has just passed. Of the relief operations but little detailed record remains, but it is clear that as in 1858-59 the "test work" of the time was still the poor-house, while the utility of the advances which were made to cultivators to the amount of Rs80,000 was seriously impaired by its premature distribution during June, two months before it could have been put to any profitable use.

19. The scarcity of 1877-78, through it did not develop into actual famine, was still a cause of grave apprehension in this district and especially in Sirsa. The kharif crop of 1877 was a failure, and the rabi of 1878 afforded but an insignificant yield, and in Hissár the price of wheat rose to 13½ sérs, while gram, *bājra* and *jowar* rose to 21, 17½ and 20 sérs per rupee respectively. Some revenue was in consequence suspended, and remissions were allowed, and advances to cultivators to the extent of Rs. 27,000 were granted. A good harvest fortunately ensued, and the district was thus saved from yet another serious visitation.

CHAPTER III.—THE CAUSES WHICH LED TO THE PRESENT FAMINE.

20. The causes which led to the present famine are not far to seek, and may be traced entirely to the failure of the rains. It will have been seen already that the Hissár District depends for its prosperity on its harvests, and it will only be necessary to trace its agricultural history for the last few years to find abundant reasons for the distress which has prevailed. The crops of 1892-93 were both of unusual excellence, and the Deputy Commissioner reported that they would be long remembered as such by the people. The autumn yield, however, of the latter year was not up to the mark, and its insufficiency sounded the first note of alarm. The rain set in seasonably and sowings were effected, but the month of August proved practically rainless, and it was only heavy rain in September which prevented its proving an utter failure. The rabi too of 1894 was also below the average. In the June of 1894 sufficient rain fell for sowing purposes, but the fall in July was scanty and capricious, and the crop suffered considerably. The harvest, however, furnished a moderate yield, and taken by itself would not have been considered a really bad one. Individual villages, of course, lost their crops altogether, but this has always been the case in the district and was not treated as serious. The winter rains were again poor, and the rabi of 1895 was damaged in proportion, and the prices of all cereals began to rise. Up to this period, however, the state of the district was reasonably prosperous. The four preceding harvests had not been good, but there was no anxiety then for the future.

21. The rain statistics for the monsoon months of 1895 do not read badly on paper but the meteorological conditions were really far from propitious. August and September, except for one good fall, were practically rainless, and the outturn of unirrigated crops, except in the Bág country, was practically *nil*. At the same time the cropped area under irrigation rose 131 per cent. to 64,619 acres.

22. The rabi of 1896 did not improve matters. The single fall of rain in August had tempted the people to put down spring crops, and 362,624 acres were actually sown. The subsequent failure, however, of the monsoon combined with the feebleness of the winter rains proved disastrous, and the result was that if the 19,170 acres watered by floods from the Ghaggar are excluded, only 89,023 acres, or 24 per cent. of the total area sown gave any yield, and that was below the average. An additional cause for anxiety was found in the very poor yield in this harvest of fodder. Purely fodder crops failed universally, and the straw of wheat and other cereals was stunted and bad. The outturn on irrigated lands too was on average as the canal water supply was insufficient, and hailstorms and other natural calamities had been at work. Prices were all the time rising in an ominous manner, and when the failure of the harvest became beyond dispute, the price of *bājra* went to 13½ and wheat from 14 to 15 sérs.

23. As the summer of 1896 progressed matters grew rapidly worse. The heat of June was exceptionally fierce, and men and cattle began to suffer. A few scattered showers fell in July, and the night of August a few showers fell, and then there intervened a period of five weeks of rainlessness which was only broken by light local showers. From the 1st of May to the 15th of October barely 3½ inches were registered at the head-quarters, and the result was an almost absolute failure of the harvests. The following table will show clearly the unsatisfactory condition of the kharif harvests of the four years preceding the famine:

1	2	3	4	5
SEASON.	Acreage sown.	Acreage matured.	Acreage failed.	
			Actual.	Per cent. of column 2.
Kharif 1893.	1,513,797	1,255,144	258,653	17.
" 1894.	1,435,467	933,800	501,667	35.
" 1895.	1,422,578	251,614	1,170,964	82.
" 1896.	1,269,372	175,631	1,093,741	86.

These figures are in themselves sufficiently alarming, but it must also be remembered that in addition to the insignificance of the area sown the yield per acre was also abnormally light, and in fact most of the *jowár* and one-third of the *bájr*a was only fit for fodder.

24. The long autumn drought was not broken by anything but feeble and intermittent showers, and the rabi, 1897, was also a failure, only 18 per cent. of the acreage sown being actually harvested. The following table will show the rabi figures for unirrigated crops of the preceding years :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Period.	Acreage sown.		Acreage harvested.		Acreage failed.	
	Actual.	Per cent. on average from 1891 to 1895.	Actual.	Per cent. on column 2.	Actual.	Per cent. on column 2.
Average, from 1891 to 1895	629,450	100	541,133	86	88,317	14
Actuals, 1896	362,625	57	108,193	29	254,432	71
Actuals, 1897	138,548	22	24,836	18	113,712	82

Besides this the yield per acre, as in the case of the kharif harvest of 1896, was far below the average, and the irrigated crops owing to the lack of canal water were also poor.

25. In their Final Report the Famine Commission reported that "when the crop is so reduced that the whole outturn of the year is diminished to 25 per cent. of a full crop, it may be taken as certain that intense famine will prevail." According to this standard famine of an intense character set in during the summer months of 1896 before even the autumn crops of that year and the rabi harvest of 1897 had proved a failure. The outturn of 1895-96 was reduced to barely 20 per cent. of a full crop, while that of 1896-97 was reduced as low as 15 per cent, and this on the top of poor harvests in 1893-94 and 1894-95. These figures will therefore prove two things: first, that the power of resistance on the part of the people to the assaults of famine must have increased wonderfully since the date of the report of the Famine Commission, and secondly, that in making liberal grants to the Hissár District from the Charitable Fund, the Provincial Committee had good cause to apprehend that the need for it would be very severely felt. It is not proposed to elaborate any further the figures which have been given above, which tell their own tale, but it may be instructive to compare the state of Hissár as far as may be possible with that of other districts.

26. It is difficult to attempt this task in any detail, but there are figures to show the imports and exports of grain from various parts of India, and the general sufficiency or deficiency of food stocks as marked by the amount of imports and exports of grain is a very fair test of the condition of a district. According to the official figures it appears that in a normal year the Hissár District exports on an average nearly 2½ million maunds of edible grain and imports 42,000 maunds of the same commodity. Thus in ordinary circumstances there is produced 2,473,064 maunds of surplus food every year. But during 1896 this surplus was changed to a deficiency, which, when local stocks were exhausted, had to be met by a net import of 136,350 maunds. In the first nine months of 1897 no less than 979,600 maunds were poured into the district from other parts of India, and Hissár was changed from a large exporting to a large importing centre.

27. The Weekly Statements in the *Gazette of India* afford material for a comparison of the figures given in the preceding paragraph with those of other parts of Upper India, and the following table gives the results in a compendious form :—

Imports and exports to and from certain districts, from January 30th to September 25th, 1897.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Detail.	Punjab.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			
	Ráwal-pindi.	Delhi.	Hissár.	Allahabad.	Bánda.	Jalaun.	Hardoi.
Imports	1,059,751	880,700	1,080,800	1,251,300	650,500	279,000	166,500
Exports	113,200	452,900	101,200	17,900	8,800	15,900	50,900
Net imports	946,551	427,800	979,600	1,239,400	641,700	263,100	115,600

28. Allahabad heads the list of net imports and Hissár comes second, but Allahabad has a large cantonment and a large civil population. The large total of Ráwalpindi is accounted for by the recent mobilisation of troops on the frontier. This is proved by the fact that 360,100 maunds, or 38 per cent. of the total of nine months, were imported since the beginning of July. Judged by these figures, therefore, no district in Upper India, with the possible exception of Allahabad, suffered more than Hissár from a depletion of food stocks during the famine.

CHAPTER IV.—UNSYSTEMATIC RELIEF.

29. It was in these circumstances that the sympathy of the charitably minded began to take tangible form, but as was only to be expected all action, if not entirely isolated, was devoid of any system. In Sirsa. In Sirsa and Hánsi concerted action of a sort was taken, and in the former town a sum of R1,951 was collected in the month of October 1896, and a further sum of R2,237 in the November of the same year. This was paid away in the shape of handfuls of grain to the hundreds of the destitute poor, who, before the general opening of Relief Works or of poor-houses, gathered in the sub-divisional head-quarters. When Mr. Hamilton, C.S., took over charge of the Sirsa Sub-Division on December 20th, he found an unexpended balance of R1,036-7-6, and he at once set to work to restrict the number of recipients by weeding out the able-bodied, and by pressing upon the Deputy Commissioner the necessity of opening a poor-house. The starting of the Ghaggar Canal Works, too, which took place on December 8th, naturally checked the inflow into the towns, and charitable relief in Sirsa was reduced to more manageable proportions. No formal lists, however, were kept of the recipients, but there is sufficient information available to show that for the week ending January 30th, grain to the total amount of maunds 999'30 had been distributed to an average daily number of some 1,336 recipients. The local Committee started its existence on February 15th, when Mr. Hamilton, C.S., was appointed President, and the unexpended balance of R168-7-6, together with fresh subscriptions to the amount of R609, making in all R777-7-6, were funded in the Government Treasury. There remained too to the credit of the Committee besides this sum in cash 13 maunds of unused grain, valued at R40-6-0.

30. In Hánsi a public subscription list was also opened, and R3,242 were collected. Relief was given in the form of doles of boiled grain, and in this way a sum of R1,453-9-0 was expended down to the end of January 1897, when it was resolved to form a local Committee and fund the unexpended balance in the Government Treasury. The previous relief was accordingly at once discontinued, but the preparation of the lists took some time, and it was not till the third week in March that the work fairly commenced. An unexpended balance of R1,788-7-0, together with R38-3-0, the interest on the same, making in all R1,826-10-0, were duly credited in the Government Treasury.

31. In the other towns of the district only isolated action was taken to relieve distress, and no estimate can be formed of the amount of charity given. The baniás of Hissár and Bhiwáni undoubtedly gave away a considerable quantity of grain to the beggars who thronged the *báasars*, and were thus, though without realising it, attracting into their respective towns the hard pressed inhabitants of the surrounding villages. The same is true, though on a far more limited scale, of some other petty towns in the district, in only one of which, however, namely, Fatahabad, was it found necessary to take special measures to check this always undesirable influx.

32. This period of unsystematic relief may be held to have ended with the middle of the month of February. Judging it from the experience of several months of organised distribution, it would be hard to decide whether extravagance or inefficacy was its prevailing characteristic. It was extravagant, in that it scarcely attempted to discriminate between the deserving and undeserving poor, and so held out temptations to the able-bodied to reject the calls of honest work, and it was inefficacious, in that, instead of freeing the towns where it was given from destitution, it rather filled them with the destitute. At the same time it was undoubtedly the form of charity which appealed most to the donors and to the recipients, and as long as there was a scarcity of work outside the towns, it did perhaps but little harm. When the opportunities for work were artificially multiplied, the system, or rather the lack of system, became absolutely pernicious, and imperatively required to be checked.

CHAPTER V.—SYSTEMATIC RELIEF.

33. The first steps towards the organisation of local charity were taken at the end of the month of December 1896, when the Deputy Commissioner visited Bhiwáni and held a big meeting, at which a sum of R5,376 was collected or promised, and arrangements were made for its management by a local Committee. A similar meeting was held at Hissár on the 20th of January, and an organisation on the same lines was sketched out, the nucleus

of the Committee being in each case the Municipal Committee, with the addition of such names as seemed desirable. The formation of a Central Committee had to be postponed to a later date, as the Deputy Commissioner was obliged to go into camp. His recommendations, however, to the charitably minded gentlemen of the four large towns may be summarised as follows.

34. It was suggested that the members of the Municipal Committee should undertake the distribution of the money collected, adding to their number such additional names as should be necessary, and that the members of the Committee so formed should work in pairs, each pair making itself responsible for one *muhabla* or quarter of the town. Their duty was to be the preparation of such lists of the poor and helpless in their *muhabla* as would enable the Committee to adjudge what help it would be necessary to give, and it was proposed that the assistance given should be in form either of grain doles or of cheap shop or spinning relief.

35. The proposals were accepted by the various bodies concerned. Registers showing the names, parentage, caste, age and place of residence of applicants for relief were opened, and from time to time submitted to the various Committees and card-board ticket was given to each approved applicant, or to the head of each family, stating the relief to which the holder was entitled. This ticket was produced at each distribution, when the amount of grain given was entered and the entry signed by the member of Committee superintending the operations, and this entry served as a check on the amount entered in his books by the distributing Muharrir. It was also agreed to submit a weekly return showing the weekly expenditure and the number of persons relieved.

36. On January 29th the sanction of the Commissioner for the formation of a District Committee was received, and the Deputy Commissioner accordingly requested the members of the District Board, together with the gazetted officers of Government at head-quarters, and the President and the Secretaries of the Municipal Committees, and the President and Secretaries of the local Famine Committees, to form themselves into a Central District Committee. This was carried out, and on receipt of Rs. 30,000 from the Lahore Provincial Committee the first meeting was held on February the 25th.

37. The working of the various charitable organisations and their inter-play will be conveniently set out by a consideration of them in the following order:—

- I.—The Hissár Town Committee.
 - II.—The Hânsi Town Committee.
 - III.—The Bhiwâni Town Committee.
 - IV.—The Sirsa Town Committee.
 - V.—Baptist Zenâna Mission Ladies' Organisation under Miss Theobald in Bhiwâni.
 - VI.—Miscellaneous Organisations.
 - VII.—The Central District Committee.
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PART II—THE ACTUAL WORKING OF THE COMMITTEE.

CHAPTER		Page.	CHAPTER XII.—The District Committee (exclusive of Local Committees.)		Page.
VI.—Hissár Town Committee		511	Introductory		516
VII.—Hánsi	"	512	A.—Poor-houses		518
VIII.—Bhiwáni	"	513	B.—Money doles, etc.		16.
IX.—Sirsa	"	514	C.—Cloths, etc.		519
X.—Baptist Zenána Mission Agency		515	D.—Extraordinary		16.
XI.—Miscellaneous Organisation		516	E.—Gifts to Cultivators		520

CHAPTER VI.—HISSAR TOWN COMMITTEE.

38. The town of Hissár is the head-quarters of the administration of the district, and has a population of 16,854 persons. It lies on the main road from Bikanir, and is only some 20 miles from the borders of that State. For these reasons it is, after Bhiwáni and Sirsa, the natural gathering ground of the indigent and destitute in time of famine. It has though the advantages which a head-quarters town must always possess. Its leading men are more conversant with European habits of concerted action, and the presence of the lawyer element, whose business it is to understand Committees and how to work them, together with the ever present controlling influence of the District Officers, renders the formation of a strong local Committee no very difficult matter.

39. The first steps towards united action were taken on January 20th, 1897, when the Deputy Commissioner held a public meeting, at which a sum of Rs. 3,135 was promised in subscriptions, and the Municipal Committee was invited as usual to form itself into the nucleus of a local Committee. This proposal, however, did not take immediate effect, and after some discussion a meeting of subscribers was held, at which it was determined that the Committee should consist of those who had given Rs. 20 or upwards to the funds. It was also decided that this body should be further split up into four Boards to deal respectively with the management of (1), relief given by grain doles; (2), other forms of relief; (3), audit and finance; and (4), the collection of subscriptions. Officers, including Lála Sohan Lal, Government Treasurer, as Vice-President, and Babu Chúra Moni, Vakíl, as Secretary, were appointed, and it was resolved to fund the subscriptions already collected in the Government Treasury for the purpose of obtaining a formal record of the same, but to withdraw the bulk of them at once and lodge the amount with Lála Chhabíl Das, who was accordingly elected Treasurer and Banker to the Committee. The city was then divided into sixteen wards, and two gentlemen undertook the supervision of each, and it was arranged that where the caste of the Circle Inspectors differed from that of the inhabitants of their ward, as was inevitable in the poorer quarters, they should associate with themselves in their rounds of inspection some trustworthy member of the caste committed to their charge.

40. Towards the middle of February the reports of the Circle Inspectors began to come in, and the distribution of relief was commenced on February the 20th. The form adopted was that of a grain dole at the rate of half-a-sér a day for an adult man, 7 chittaks for an adult woman, and 6, 4 and 2 chittaks for children between twelve and seven, seven and five and five and two years of age, respectively. During the first week an average daily number of 135 persons was fed in this way, and this total was gradually increased as the circle inspections became more and more thorough, until the numbers reached were about 280 daily. Towards the middle of May a complete revision of the registers was undertaken, and the name of those who had become strong enough to work on the neighbouring Relief Works, or were otherwise able to provide for themselves, were struck off, and the daily average total fell to 110. At the same time arrangements for starting a cheap shop were made, and about half of those who had been struck off the grain dole list were given tickets entitling them to buy grain within certain limits at 3 sérs above the then market rate. This system of relief was never very warmly taken up, and as only one person availed himself of the privilege, it was tacitly abandoned. Its failure proved what would naturally be expected, that this form of relief to obtain any hold must be started at the very outset of charitable operations. It is unpopular with the grain dealers because it draws away their custom, while the poor do not like to avail themselves of it, as it means that they must give up their ordinary bania, in whose debt in time of scarcity they are almost sure to be. Throughout the months of June, July and August the numbers rose again to about 180, when a diminution set in which was steadily maintained until operations closed on October the 16th, when the daily average number of recipients was 66.

41. In addition to the doles of uncooked grain, relief was also given in the form of handfuls of boiled grain to isolated individuals passing through the city. This kind of charity was first given in the week ending July the 3rd, and was adopted with a view to keeping the city clear of

beggars. When operations commenced in February the town was full of the destitute of all kinds, and there were loud complaints about the petty pilfering and the constant worry which resulted. The Committee took resolute action in the matter. Having decided that it owed no duty to the surrounding villages it set to work to enforce this wise determination. In the first place it refused to place on its list the wanderers from other parts and so stopped or checked the influx, and then, in concert with the district authorities, it proceeded to get away from the town those beggars who had already come in. For this purpose a peon was appointed whose duty it was to collect the wanderers and take them before an officer of the Committee. He explained that the Committee would give no relief and drafted off to the poor-house such of the infirm as were willing to go under the peon's charge. Those who were able to work were sent in like manner to one of the Famine Relief Works which were being conducted by the Municipal Committee in the neighbourhood of the town, where they soon settled down to earn their daily wage. Such of the infirm as refused to go to the poor-house were sent back to their villages, and instructions were issued to have their names entered on the registers of Government gratuitous relief. As a result of these measures the town, after a few weeks, resumed its normal aspect, and the begging nuisance, with its attendant demoralisation to all parties, entirely ceased. At the beginning of July, as the rains began to be expected, people started leaving the Relief Works for their villages, and a considerable number of travellers began to pass daily through the town. It was then that the dole of cooked food in the shape of boiled grain was commenced in order to check any tendency on the part of these men to stay and beg in the city. Every day at 4 o'clock a certain quantity of boiled grain was given out, and any stranger to the town was allowed to come and apply for a handful. The dispensing servant, a Brahmin of course, then entered the applicant's name and village on a list and gave out the dole. Before going away, however, every man had to dip the tips of his fingers in a preparation of soda, which stained them for about four or five days. Consequently when he came again next day he was at once detected and refused a further dole. This ingenious device, the suggestion of an astute member of the Committee, soon became known, and after the first few days there were hardly any attempts to obtain a second dole, and the relief achieved its object in reaching only *bond fide* travellers. Their numbers gradually diminished, and the doles were stopped with effect from the week ending October the 2nd.

42. The financial position of the Committee was all along very satisfactory. Its receipts amounted to Rs. 3,146-6-3, of which Rs. 11-6-3 represented the net profit made on the re-sale of its surplus stock of grain. Its expenditure as shown in Forms A and B and the weekly statements No. (1) attached, amounted only to Rs. 2,012-2-3, thus leaving an unexpended balance of Rs. 1,134-4-0, which, with the sanction of the Provincial Committee, has been left in the town Committee's hands for future use.

43. During the period under report, from February the 20th to October the 16th, an average daily number of 206 persons have received relief of various kinds at a total net cost of Rs. 2,000-12-0, or, to express this result in the terms of a single day, 49,028 units were relieved on one day at a cost of 8 pies per head.

CHAPTER VII.—HANSI TOWN COMMITTEE.

44. The history of the Hansi Town Committee is in the highest degree uneventful, but it has a record of useful work. The town itself is favourably situated on the Hansi Branch of the Western Jumna Canal, and forms the centre of what has been the most prosperous, or, to speak more accurately, the least afflicted portion of the district during the last three famine years. It lies, moreover, at a safe distance from any of the surrounding Native States, and has never attracted the wandering beggars from those parts; it has had, too, this further advantage, that its leading inhabitants have not been torn asunder by internal dissensions, and have been able, under the presidency of the Tahsildár, to work harmoniously together.

45. The Committee was formed, as has been stated in paragraph 30, towards the beginning of February, with an available balance of Rs. 1,826-10-0, but it was not till the third week in March that the actual work of distribution was commenced, when 59 persons were given money doles. In the following week this number was increased to 100, and grain was substituted for money at the rate of half a sér per head per day, and 21 poor women besides were given spinning relief. These figures remained fairly constant throughout, though the numbers of the latter rose gradually during a course of six months to over 60 persons. The work of distribution ceased on October the 9th, when the unspent balance amounted to Rs. 218-13-3, which was subsequently expended in the purchase of clothes and blankets for the poor.

46. An examination of the returns of this Committee (Forms A and B and Statement No. (2) attached) show that a very satisfactory and business-like control was maintained over the expenditure on relief, and it is distinctly creditable to the gentlemen who managed its affairs that they

alone had the courage to face the difficulties involved in giving relief by spinning. This latter operation necessitates the trouble of purchasing raw cotton and of selling it after it has been spun by the women, and it also requires a constant vigilance to frustrate the many devices of the spinners for obtaining an undue wage for their work. During the whole period for which the Committee was administering this form of relief an average daily number of 51 spinners was employed at an initial cost of Rs1,000-7-3, or after deducting the price obtained for their thread, a net cost of Rs567-15-6, thus involving on the fund a charge of approximately annas 1-1 per head per day.

47. A similar analysis of the relief given by grain doles shows that for the period of 25 weeks, during which this form of relief was given, a daily average of 105 persons was maintained at a total cost of Rs767-8-3, or an average daily expenditure per head of 8 pies, while if both forms of relief are combined into one statement, and the cost of establishment and miscellaneous charges, together with the expenditure under Objects I D and II D, are thrown in, and the net result is that between March the 20th and 9th October 1897, relief was given daily to an average number of 141 persons at a net cost of Rs1,607-12-9. This result, expressed in the terms of a single day, is equivalent to saying that on one day 28,623 units were relieved at a cost of 11 pies per head.

CHAPTER VIII.—BHIWANI TOWN COMMITTEE.

48. The town of Bhiwani is by far the largest in the Hissar District, and with a population of over 35,000 persons ranks thirteenth among the cities of the Province. It is situated on the Rewari-Ferozepore Railway, and is a great commercial centre with extensive connections with Bombay. In religion its inhabitants are almost entirely Hindus, and its leading men are exclusively wealthy banias, whose interests during the past year have been more than usually centered in speculations in grain. Situated as it is on the borders of the sandy "Bagar" tract, and being only a few miles distant from the Native States of Bikanir and Loharu, it was only to be expected that it would become the gathering place of all the wanderers from the desolate wilderness round about it.

49. In these circumstances it was unfortunate that the formation of a strong local Committee was impossible. Of necessity all the members had to be banias, and experience has only too repeatedly shown that of all castes the banias are least fitted to control an organised system of charity. While willing to give liberally from their stores such handfuls of grain as will go towards silencing the clamour of importunate beggars, they are extremely loth to part with any actual money, or to give adequately to one if that requires the rejection of another. It was obvious therefore from the outset that it would be impossible to hope for very efficient management of charitable relief, and the situation was still further complicated by the then recent disturbances in that town, and, from the point of view of the instigators, their successful termination.

50. The first meeting of subscribers was held on December the 21st. It was a fairly large one and characteristically representative, and a sum of Rs5,376 was promised in subscriptions. Its realisation, however, proved a somewhat more difficult business. Sufficient, however, was collected to warrant the starting of relief, and a Committee having been formed, work commenced with effect from the 23rd of January, when three persons were given cheap shop relief, or the privilege of buying grain at two sers to the rupee more than the *basar* rate, and 259 received tickets entitling them to a grain dole at the rate of half a ser a day, or 3½ sers a week, as recommended by the Deputy Commissioner. This dole was given once every ten days, and a member of the Committee was supposed to superintend each distribution. The city too was divided into *muhallas* and each *muhalla* was nominally under two members of the Committee, but this work of inspection seems to have been entirely neglected.

51. As the weeks went on the numbers in receipt of the grain doles steadily rose, while little, if any, increase was made in the total of those who were obtaining cheap shop relief. The numbers of the latter had risen at the outset to about 20, and remained throughout at or near that figure. By the middle of February, however, the other class of recipients exceeded 300, and by the middle of March 500 in number, and the weekly totals began to show a rapid and frequent fluctuation. Early in May a sudden rise to 871 followed by a fall to 704, and another rise to 883 gave grounds for suspicion that the lists of applicants were not being carefully and systematically checked, and the Committee were requested to give their attention to the claims of economy.

Little heed was taken, and the weeks ending June the 5th and 12th discovered a rise from a modest 773 to 1,313 and 1,384, respectively.

52. In these circumstances an investigation was held into the matter, and it was found that the system of circle inspection having proved irksome, had been recently abandoned for the more comfortable method of entering in the registers without enquiry the name of any one who came

to the shop at the time of distribution and looked as if he wanted food. The result was of course that the town was soon full of clamorous beggars from the surrounding parts, who were still further encouraged by the way in which the city baniás, ignoring the existence of the local Committee, commenced to give their mites of isolated charity. The numbers were at once cut down, and a large body of Bikaneris, drafted off with food for the journey to their homes, and two weeks later, when the funds of the local Committee were exhausted, an application was made to the District Committee for a subsidy, that body did not feel justified in acceding to the request, and determined to assume direct control of any future relief operations.

53. An analysis of the accounts and returns of the Committee shows that a sum of Rs 5,176 was originally promised in the form of subscriptions, and that out of this Rs 4,883-2-6 were finally realised. The whole of this sum was expended by the Committee. Of it Rs 77-13-0 were devoted to meeting the loss on the sales from the cheap shop, Rs 4,605-11-9 on the purchase of the grain which was given away in doles as described above, and Rs 199-9-9 on miscellaneous charges, and the affairs of the Committee were finally wound up on October the 6th, 1897.

54. During the period of 22 weeks from January 23rd to June 26th, during which the operations of the Committee were in progress, a daily average number of 708 persons were maintained in one form or another at a cost of Rs 4,883-2-6, or, to reduce the statement to the terms of a single day, on one day 109,032 units received relief at an average cost per head of 9 pies. These figures are obtained from Forms A and B and Statement No. (3) attached to this report. It will be gathered from them that the mistake of the Committee lay rather in accumulating unnecessary recipients than in wasting money on them when once on their lists, as the cost per head of 9 pies cannot be pronounced excessive.

CHAPTER IX.—SIRSA TOWN COMMITTEE.

55. The town of Sirsa is the head-quarters of the Sirsa Sub-Division of the Hissár District and contains a population of 16,415 persons. It lies about 9 miles from the Bikaner border, and has during the last two years been the centre of the prevailing distress. It has had too this further disadvantage, that its position has made it a temporary halting-place for the thousands of famine labourers who flocked to the Ghaggar Canal relief camps, the Head Works of which were only some ten miles to the west. For these reasons the course of charitable relief in Sirsa has differed materially from that in the other big towns of the district. Whereas in Hissár, Hānsi and Bhiwāni the well-to-do inhabitants of each town asked to be allowed to have the sole management of gratuitous relief within its limits to the exclusion of the usual Government operations on the same lines, it was not thought wise in Sirsa for the district authorities to let the control of affairs in any way out of their hands. In Sirsa accordingly the first action of the local Committee, which was formed on February the 15th, was to put a stop not only to the unsystematic relief which had previously prevailed, and which promised to be very mischievous in its effects, but also to its own activity. From the 15th of February, therefore, till the end of May gratuitous relief was administered on the strictest governmental lines by the District Officers. Towards the end of May, as the relief camps on the Ghaggar Canals became full, and the rush of workers through Sirsa diminished, the local Committee was begged to bring its resources into play. To this request it readily acceded, and for ten weeks, from May the 30th to August the 7th, grain was doled out to ticket-holders daily at the rate of 8 sers for an adult and 4 for a child per week. In this way Rs 814-5-9 were expended, and when it was decided to suspend operations, a further sum was devoted to sending 576 of the previous recipients with money to buy food for their journey to their homes. It is instructive to note that of these no less than 335 were natives of Bikaner and 18 of other Native States.

56. The expenditure of the Committee on grain doles, together with the loss incurred on the sale of its surplus stocks and a charge for medicines, was accordingly Rs 886-2-6; and it is creditable to the public spirit of the town that it was not necessary to incur any additional charges for establishment. For this money an average daily number of 411 persons was maintained for ten weeks, or, to express this in terms of a single day, on one day 28,770 units were relieved at an average cost per head of 6 pies, the lowest figure attained by any Committee in the district.

57. The balance left in the hands of the Committee was Rs 938-11-0. Of this sum Rs 300 were subsequently expended on the purchase of clothing and blankets for the poor, which was given away as the night became cold towards the end of October, Rs 100 were made over to the Doctor in charge of the local dispensary, and Rs 71-7-9 had already been disbursed in valedictory doles.

The final closing balance of Rs 467-3-3 was, with the sanction of the Provincial Committee, left with the local Committee for subsequent disposal. The usual details will be found in Forms A and B and Statement No. (4) attached.

CHAPTER X.—BAPTIST ZENANA MISSION AGENCY, BHIWANI.

58. The operations of the Baptist Zenana Mission Agency fall naturally into two periods. From November 1896 to the end of February 1897 the ladies of the Mission, by the help of contributions

from friends in England and Sunday subscriptions from well-wishers in India, administered relief on a small scale to the women whom they discovered, in the course of their visits to the poor of the town, to be in acute distress. These operations were of a purely private character, and were conducted under the experienced management of Miss Angus, the then head of the Mission, and a sum of Rs 665-12-8 was expended in this manner, but this disbursement does not figure in the District Committee's account. Towards the end of February the funds at her disposal began to run short, and the development of the previous distress into real famine made it obvious that relief operations must either be conducted on a large scale, or be of very little use. Fortunately at this point the District Committee had just come into active existence, and knowing of the difficulties which hampered the inauguration of an extensive relief programme, at once offered to provide any funds which might be necessary. The offer was gratefully accepted, and as Miss Angus was about to proceed to England for her health, Miss Theobald, her successor, undertook the responsibility of the undertaking, and from March the 1st, 1887, the Baptist Zenana Mission Agency became closely affiliated to the District Committee.

59. The scheme of relief sketched out by Miss Theobald was very thorough, and was in the main of two sorts. In the first place, she obtained

Description of the relief given. the co-operation of Lala Sálíg Ram, a well-to-do bania contractor of the town, and a Municipal Commissioner of some standing, and made over to him the immediate management of a cheap shop and of a system of distribution of cooked food doles. For herself she took over the control of the provision of work to poor women of the town and surrounding villages. The undertaking was a bold one, but proved a wonderful success. Having bought with the funds at her disposal large quantities of raw cotton, she selected from her 'out-of-work' list a sufficient number of cleaners to get the cotton ready for spinning; this done, a large body of spinners, also destitute, was set to work to convert the material into thread, and this in a similar manner was passed on to unemployed weavers, who turned out the *garha*, or coarse country cloth. All these workers were given as much work a day as would bring them in, if completed, the ordinary wage in times of plenty, and it depended on their own efforts whether they got this wage or not. Short work was met by short pay, and when this was realised the daily task was very soon performed, and the work proceeded without friction. As it was impossible to deal with the whole outturn of thread, or even of *garha*, large quantities, amounting to 355 maunds of the former and 268 *thans* of the latter, were sold at the prevailing market rates of the time. The remainder was carried on to further stages by the employment of indigent dyers to dye the *garha*, and of sewers and embroiders to make it into clothes and fancy work. This was perhaps the most arduous, but certainly the most interesting, part of Miss Theobald's work. The cleaners and spinners and weavers worked, of course, in their own homes, and came daily to show their progress, but the sewers and embroiderers for the most part took up their abode in the mission compound, where Miss Theobald went in and out amongst them, teaching them how to sew and—for there is no indigenous needle-work in Bhiwani—what embroideries to make. The result was the production of very pretty table cloths and simple pieces of fancy work, which were readily bought up by the European residents of Hissár and Delhi, and other friends of the Mission. As the workers became more experienced, the manufacture of *darris* was successfully undertaken, and it was also discovered, though rather late, that a most profitable trade could be made in the common household *jharan* or duster. The bulk of the women, however, were kept busy in the manufacture of clothes, and the additional interest in their work was provided by the promise of one set of clothes apiece when the time came for the disbandment of the little army of workers. Finally, when this period was reached, all those who had come from a distance and possessed any land were given valedictory advances to cover their travelling expenses and start them afresh in life. The work finally closed, after seven months active progress, on September the 30th, 1897, but during this last month the manufacture of clothes, &c., was superseded by a money dole of annas 8 a week to the workers, as the usual severity of the hot weather, lasting in Bhiwani till the end of August, when the first real fall of rain occurred in that town, had obliged Miss Theobald to consent to take a rest, and the work could not go on in her absence.

60. From the figures given under object III B of Form B of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for the Baptist Zenana Mission

Agency attached, it will be seen that for a period of 6 months an average daily number of 228 women were kept in employment at a cost to the Fund of Rs 3,888-13-0, or at the rate of annas 1-6 a day. This too does not allow for the value of the clothes manufactured and given away under objects I A and III A, which must have been worth, roughly, about Rs 346. If this sum be taken into account and be credited to the Fund, the net loss would amount only to Rs 3,388-13-0, and considerably reduce the average daily rate. If this be compared with the figures of other local Committees, it will be seen that, whereas it is possible by doling out food to preserve life by

the expenditure of 8 or 9 pies per head per day, it is also feasible by an additional outlay of 6 or 7 pies per head per day to keep the same person in active healthy employment at his ordinary daily task. The two systems must co-exist, and it is unnecessary to compare them further. Taking Miss Theobald's operations as a whole, and adding in everything except the valedictory advances, and excluding the gifts of clothes from consideration, it appears from Statement No. (5) attached that for seven months a daily average number of 391 persons was relieved at a cost to the Fund of Rs. 251-1-3, or, to express the same in terms of a single day, on one day 88,674 persons were maintained at an average cost per head of one anna.

61. At the conclusion of her operations Miss Theobald was left with a balance of Rs. 1-3-0, which was refunded at a later period when the Disposal of the balance. affairs of this Agency for relief were finally wound up. Forms A and B and a consolidated Statement No. 5 are submitted herewith.

CHAPTER XI.—MISCELLANEOUS ORGANISATIONS.

62. Besides the four Town Committees and Miss Theobald's organisation in Bhiwani three private Agencies were at work on systematic lines in the district. As, however, they were the outcome of purely individual generosity, and were entirely independent of the District Committee, they call for little comment.

63. In the town of Hānsi an English lady, who would not wish her name to be mentioned in a formal Report, organised relief operations upon a considerable scale amongst the poorer women of the place. By a house-to-house visitation, which could not be undertaken by any but a member of her sex, she was able to discover many cases of destitution, which would otherwise have escaped notice, and her charity is very gratefully remembered by the residents of the town. After continuing for the greater part of the hot weather, these operations were wound up towards the beginning of July.

64. In Bhiwani two wealthy grain merchants, struck by the advantages of the Lāla Naurang Rai's and poor-house Government poor-house and the good which was being done there, determined to open private poor-houses of their own. That of Lāla Naurang Rai, which in a Sanskrit phrase he named the "Dur-bhikshak Sahāyak Ashram," was opened on March the 8th, and after four months of useful work was closed with the last day of June. The inmates averaged about 100 during the earlier stages, but gradually dwindled in number as time went on and the rains began to be expected. Each person received two meals a day, and those who were not too infirm were allowed outside for two hours daily. Lāla Naurang Rai, too, is said to have distributed Rs. 1,200 worth of grain in 11 of the surrounding villages, and a further sum of Rs. 850 amongst the respectable poor of five towns in the district in the form of secret relief.

65. The other poor-house was opened by Lālas Jai Rām Dās and Ram Gopāl on the 24th of March, and was not closed until the 24th of August. The inmates were fed twice daily and were provided with clothes, while their health received the attention of a native Hakim. During the first week some 70 persons were received into this shelter, and the numbers gradually rose to about 100, at which point they remained till the second week in July, when they gradually fell until the institution was finally closed. Special delicacies were provided on the 22nd of June in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, and generally the care devoted to the inmates seems to have been great. Both these gentlemen and Lāla Naurang Rai have been very ready to keep the Central Committee informed of what they were doing, and they deserve its thanks.

66. There were doubtless many other persons whose charity would be deserving of mention, but who have escaped notice in good doing. It should be chronicled, however, that Lāla Rām Sukh Dās, the Rohtak Treasurer, and an inhabitant of Sirsa, subscribed generously to the funds of the Provincial Committee, and that on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab was pleased to grant a Sanad to Lāla Har Sarup, Mahājan of Satrand, "in recognition of his unostentatious charity, which has not, however, escaped the notice of the authorities."

CHAPTER XII.—THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

67. The first meeting of the District Committee, which, as has been already explained, was composed of the members of the District Board, together with all the gazetted officers of Government at head-quarters and the officials of the local Committees, was held on February the 25th. At this meeting little was decided beyond the allocation of such sums of money as would be necessary to provide comforts for the inmates of Government poor-houses and the grant of a subsidy to Miss Theobald to enable her to carry on her work of relief in Bhiwani. Several questions of general policy, however, were discussed, and a definite line of action was unanimously agreed upon. It was felt that it was above all things essential that the action of the charitable organisations of the district should in no way clash with that of the Government, and that it was imperatively necessary that the policy of the district authorities in combating the prevailing distress should be loyally

backed up. The main principles of this policy were seen to include, first and foremost, the avoidance of any sort of dual control; secondly, the limitation, as far as possible, of the numbers on receipt of gratuitous or poor-house relief; and, thirdly, the importance of maintaining intact the village organization, and of starting all classes of the community afresh in life when the famine should have passed. It was foreseen in fact that the scarcity was certain to be on a gigantic scale, and that, while it was necessary money should be freely expended, it was of the most vital importance for the future welfare of the district that it should be spent in such a manner as would avoid, as far as possible, the pauperisation of the people and their permanent demoralisation and loss of self-reliance.

68. The policy thus sketched out was steadily and consistently maintained, and the possibilities before the Committee. Its explanation at the outset will render obvious the reasons which weighed with the Committee in taking the steps which it subsequently did. In the first place, the offer of the Town Committees of Hissár, Hânsi and Bhiwâni to look after their own poor to the exclusion of the Government gratuitous relief operations was endorsed by the District Committee, and readily accepted by the Deputy Commissioner. In the same way, it was agreed that the care of such orphans as should be discovered should be left to the District Committee, as their permanent maintenance could not be undertaken by Government; while, on the other hand, the District Committee agreed to abstain from setting up a separate organization for the administration of gratuitous relief in villages, and determined to invite the officials who were responsible for the proper working of Government relief in the various parts of the district to be the media through which charitable relief should also be administered. The former of these resolutions was not accepted until the matter had been carefully considered, and the opinions of those who were entitled to speak had been asked. It was, of course, tempting to try and draw subtle distinction between those who were absolutely destitute and were a proper charge on Government, and those who were just able to struggle along, but who would be most grateful for a little help. All inspecting officers, however, were of opinion that, while this distinction might be maintained when something short of famine prevailed, it was impossible to keep it when one-tenth of the population was in receipt of relief. It was pointed out too that the discrimination would involve a strain on the already over-worked inspecting staff, which could not profitably be incurred, and that the only effect of giving doles in villages to persons whose care Government would not undertake would be to keep them from honest labour on the numerous Famine Relief Works, and to sap thereby their natural independence. The only alternative therefore to giving nothing at all was for the Charitable Committee to undertake the payment of a certain part (say one-tenth) of the expense incurred by Government on gratuitous relief, and reckoning one-tenth of the recipients in its returns: this was proposed, and would have been an excellent working scheme, but it was rejected as being in opposition to the principles laid down by the Central Committee, for it was open to the objection that such a policy was equivalent to the District Committee's incurring a responsibility which Government would otherwise be ready to undertake. With regard to the administration of its fund through famine officials, the District Committee obtained this great advantage that not only did it avoid the necessity of numerous Sub-Committees in petty centres, and the consequent annoyance to the gentlemen who were invited to serve on them, but it also secured unity of action and a system of returns and accounts which by this time was smoothly and automatically at work.

69. It will thus be seen that the District Committee neither maintained poor-houses of its own, nor, as long as Government gratuitous relief was given in villages, did it attempt any sort of regular village relief. When, however, early in September the rains had brought up a sufficient supply of edible grasses, and berries of various sorts had begun to ripen, and the people who had beforehand been in receipt of gratuitous relief from Government were able to maintain life and the responsibility of Government ceased, the District Committee, after considering the still high prices and the unwholesomeness of the food upon which these poor people would have to live, determined to continue their money dole for another month or five weeks. At the same time a thorough revision of the lists of recipients was undertaken, and a large number of names were struck out. The distribution was carried on exactly on the same lines as had been adopted by Government, and with all the experience of the previous months to make it a success. There was too this further advantage, that the action of the Charitable Committee did not clash with that of the District Authorities, and there could be no question of the charge being properly a Government one, as Government had already definitely declined the responsibility before the Charitable Committee stepped in.

70. Apart from the supervision of the local Town Committees the active work of the District Committee may be considered under the following heads:—

- (A) The provision of extra comforts in Government poor-houses.
- (B) Money doles and spinning relief in villages and the town of Fatahabad.
- (C) The provision of clothes.
- (D) Extraordinary expenditure.
- (E) Gifts to cultivators.

A.—The provision of extra comforts in Government poor-houses.

71. The provision of comforts in Government poor-houses was not in itself a very large matter owing to the smallness of the numbers who took refuge, or were allowed to remain in those shelters. There were four in all in the district, situated at Hissár, Hānsi, Bhiwāni and Sirsa, respectively. At one of its early meetings the District Committee estimated that Rs1,000 would be necessary for this form of relief, and that sum was accordingly noted, and Rs907-9-4 in all were spent. The money was devoted principally to the supply of additional food, and in this way Rs719-6-1 were disbursed, the balance being expended in the purchase of tobacco and *gur* and in some cases of *charpais* for the more feeble of the inmates. Between March the 28th and September 11th, the earliest and latest date on which this form of relief was given, an average daily number of 305 persons, or in terms of a single day, 51,240 units, received assistance at the rate of a little over 3 pies per head per day.

72. If the various poor-houses are considered separately it will be seen from State-Detailed account of the various poor-houses. ments Nos. (6)–(9) that in Hissár there was an expenditure of Rs294-11-4, which sufficed to give an extra ration and other comforts to 123 persons on an average for 18 weeks at the rate of 4 pies per head per day. In Hānsi Rs142-3-11 were enough for 32 persons for 18 weeks at an average daily rate of 7 pies. In Bhiwāni Rs227-11-0 were expended in helping 93 persons for 17 weeks at 4 pies per head per day; while in Sirsa itself 129 persons were kept in comfort for 23 weeks at a cost per head of 2 pies daily, or by an expenditure of Rs242-15-1 in all.

73. With respect to the utility of the assistance thus given the insignificance of the expenditure would be no serviceable clue. Without the Charitable Fund to draw on the Government Officers in charge of the poor-houses in question would have been obliged by the dictates of economy to have refused to the old and infirm persons who came in those little comforts like tobacco and *gur* which to an oriental mean so much. It would have been impossible too from Government funds to have provided in every poor-house, as was done in this district, a few balls and swings for the amusement of the little children who were brought in to share their parents' incarceration, and those who were responsible for this branch of famine administration have again and again expressed their gratitude for the means which were weekly transforming the stunted and whining baby into the healthy and cheerful child. When too these institutions were closed, or any inmate left for his home, it was possible to give him as a valedictory dole not only food for his journey, but in many cases clothes, or the wherewithal to start fresh in life.

B.—Money doles and spinning relief in the village and in the town of Fatahabad.

74. As has been already explained in the introductory remarks to the work of the District Committee, it was decided not to maintain a deal system of village relief. As early, however, as March the 20th, the inhabitants of Fatahabad offered to maintain their own poor, and subscribed for the purpose. As, however, they were anxious to escape being formed into a Sub-Committee, the District Committee consented to manage the relief in question. From March the 20th, therefore, to October the 9th an average daily number of 35 persons were furnished with money doles at a cost of Rs415-3-0. The rate of the dole received varied with the prices of grain from annas 1-3 to nine pies per head per day, and the machinery of distribution was that employed by Government for gratuitous relief.

75. At the same time spinning relief was also given and on the same system to an average daily number of 6 persons. Cotton to the value of Rs49-8-6 was purchased, and after being spun into thread at a cost in wages of Rs75-12-9, was sold again for Rs59-13-6, thus involving a loss to the funds of Rs65-7-9; it thus follows that if both these forms of relief are combined into one statement, an average of 41 poor persons in Fatahabad were relieved daily for a period of 29 weeks at a net cost of Rs480-10-9, or at the rate of 11 pies per head per day (F. Statement No. (10) attached).

76. At a later period, that is, on September the 4th, the relief sketched out in miniature above was extended to nearly every village in the district. The supply of berries and edible grasses, which had been brought up by the rains, had caused the Government to hold its hand, and the poor were left to their own devices. The District Committee determined accordingly to eke out the precarious natural food-supply available by a money dole to such as were really infirm and might otherwise be reduced to the margin of subsistence. In the five weeks during which relief was given an average daily number of 5,370 persons received doles at a cost of Rs7,973-6-0, while 33 persons were given spinning work at a loss to the Fund of Rs93-10-6. Combining these figures together it appears that between September the 4th and October the 9th an average daily number of 5,403 village poor were maintained at a daily cost per head of 8 pies, or by a total net expenditure of Rs8,067-0-6 (F. Statement No. (11) attached).

77. If again these figures be arranged for the purposes of Form B, and are joined Further analysis of the figures for to those of the town of Fatahabad, it will be found that Form B. purpose. spread out over the period from March the 20th to October the 9th an average daily number of 12 persons received spinning relief at a loss to the Fund of R159-2-3, while an average daily number of 961 obtained money doles at a cost of R8,388-9-0 for the same period. Both forms of relief were closed on October the 9th, by which time the price of grain had begun to approximate to a normal level.

C.—The provision of clothes, etc.

78. The provision of clothes as the cold weather came on has all along been one of Distribution of clothes not yet completed. the main planks in the District Committee's programme, and its final balance of R4,164-9-10 will, after the deduction of any miscellaneous charges which may be incurred, be expended on this form of relief. The arrangements for this work have been completed, and the distribution has commenced, but in this *interim* Report no further mention will be made of this matter. A special Report will be made on this point at a later period.

79. It will therefore be understood why the disbursements on clothes are in the Analysis of figures up to date. Ob- Report now submitted so small. The District Committee in its single capacity has up to date, as will be seen from Statements Nos. 12 and 13 attached, only clothed 72 persons in Government poor-houses at a cost to the Fund of R42-9-6, while Miss Theobald has distributed from the stores made by her famine workers garments of various kinds to 149 women of the same class. Besides this, 150 blankets sent by the Provincial Committee direct to the officers in charge of the Ghaggar Canal Famine Works have been duly given away to 150 of the coolies there employed, and 105 of the inmates of poor-houses have benefited from the bales of clothing sent by Mrs. Hauser from England. In all 476 persons have been clothed under Object I A, for 327 of whom the District Committee was directly responsible.

80. A larger quantity of garments has already been given away under Object III A of the Fund to persons not in receipt of Government relief. From the District Committee direct 402 persons benefited from the English-made clothes, while 10 beggars in Fatahabad were clad at a cost of R8-9-6 to the Fund. If the operations of the local Committees and of Miss Theobald be added to this, it will be seen that the total of those clothed at the cost of the Fund has been increased to 682, for which a charge of R527-6-9 has been incurred. In all 1,084 persons were clad, and for 412 of them the District Committee was directly responsible.

81. It will be a fitting opportunity here to express the thanks of the Committee to The English made clothes. Thanks those English ladies whose work has been the means of clothing many tattered beggars, and the kindly sympathy with India's troubles, which the despatch of these bales betokens, has not been lost on those in this country who are able to understand whence they have come. The garments it is true were not always very suitable for the persons for whom they were meant, and in future it would perhaps be wiser, if they are made up at all, to choose cloth of a far coarser quality, as the clothes sent were always much too good. The difficulty in dealing with the distribution of clothes is always very great. Rather than wear even a native-made skirt or veil, which was not of the prevailing fashion of her caste and village many a woman has been found to prefer to keep to her own tattered rags, and this feeling is intensified when the clothes are of European manufacture, and are offered through the agency of some European. In this case there is always the haunting suspicion that the strange garment is a badge of Christianity, and that her distress is being made an opportunity for tampering with her religion. At the same time beggars cannot be choosers, and the good done by these clothes has been very real.

82. The thanks of the Committee are also due to the proprietors of Nestles' milk, Nestles' milk, Triticine food, Meaby's Triticine food and Meaby's biscuits for their very welcome consignments. Large quantities of the milk were mixed daily and distributed to selected persons by Miss Theobald, while the Civil Surgeon was always clamouring for more tins of it in his hospitals. When cholera broke out too it was of the greatest assistance, as the doctor was able to take it about with him and sustain his patients on an uncontaminated milk supply. One old man, who had been given a long drink, when asked how he liked it, exclaimed with evident desire for more, "it is as the waters of the Saraswati," the Saraswati being the lost sacred river of the Hindus, whose course is said to have run through the Hissar District. The biscuits and food too have been of very great use, and have been much appreciated by every one.

D.—Extraordinary expenditure.

83. Under the heading of "Extraordinary" items have been grouped together certain well-defined classes of expenditure which have been entered under the concluding headings of the various "Objects" in Form B. They fall into four main divisions.

84. At the opening meeting of the Committee a strong desire was expressed by certain gentlemen that some relief should be given without the formalities of registers and other checks. The wish was so strong and so natural that it was decided to entrust any gentleman whom the president—the Deputy Commissioner—might appoint, with small sums of money for secret relief. In this way a sum of Rs 344-12-9 was expended on the relief of some 41 families between the months of May and August. The gentlemen entrusted with this work were Lāla Rāgonāth Mal, the Hospital Assistant of Hānsi, Bābu Mahammad Asman, a generally respected employé in the Railway Works at Sirsa, and the Secretary of the District Committee. The two former gentlemen furnished fortnightly statements of expenditure, and were able to do much good amongst the really poor, but respectable, *parda* ladies of their respective religions, while the latter afforded relief to such isolated cases of distress amongst men of good family as were brought to his notice.

85. Under the head of valedictory doles Rs 229-9-9 were disbursed in sending the inmates of poor-houses to their homes. It was found that when these institutions were closed, or any large number of their inhabitants left, the people, instead of going back to their villages, were tempted into the towns. The District Committee, therefore, decided to undertake the care of their conveyance to their homes. Batches of the inmates belonging to a certain portion of the district were put under the care of some respectable man, and they were told that they would continue for such and such a time to receive a dole in their village if they went there. Word was then sent on to have their names entered in the village lists, and the party with its road money, and in some cases small sums for the purchase of seed, was sent off. In this way the towns were saved from beggars, and the poor-house inmates themselves were put into the position they really desired, but which but for a little gentle persuasion they would not have attained. The natives of Bikaner, of whom there was a large number, were sent to the border of the district away from any large town on the roads to their homes, and were left there to find their own way back, in every case almost with a few rupees with which to start life afresh. Those too who were in want of clothes were provided with them, and these gifts were received with the most genuine gratitude.

86. Under the heading I D of Form B has been entered a sum of Rs 32-5-9 for assistance to wanderers. Of this, Rs 20 were spent in Fatahabad in giving handfuls of grain to the men who passed through the town, when the rains broke, on their way from the Relief Works to their homes. The soda test, to which reference has been made above in the description of the Hissar Town Committee's work, was applied here too, to prevent any one's taking more than one dole, and with every success. The rest of the expenditure, *viz.*, Rs 12-5-9, was incurred on buying railway tickets to send wanderers from the North-Western Provinces and other parts back to their homes.

87. In the last class may be included four items which have been classed in I D, III F. and IV F, respectively, of Form B, and which require some explanation. They represent sums which were subscribed by isolated wealthy gentlemen for use either in their own villages or for some specific purpose. They were accepted originally and entered in the accounts before it was realized that the organisation of the District Committee was desired to be of a more rigid and inflexible character than was at first realised. The items, that is, cannot properly be brought into a state of statistical perfection, and they only figure in the returns now made because the District Committee did not see that there was any advantage to be gained in omitting them. The procedure followed was to send these sums back to the donors and beg them to arrange for their expenditure in such way as they thought fit, it being suggested that it was undesirable that they should be expended in promiscuous charity. As a result, Rs 43 were spent at Rori on the village tank, and Rs 25 on similar work at Dabra under the supervision of the donors, in the one case the local bania, and in the other Risaldar-Major, Honorary Captain Sardar Ishri Singh. Lists were not kept, but it may be calculated that the money would maintain about 170 persons for a month. Another sum of Rs 375-15-0, collected in Rania under the auspices of Jalla, the zaildār of the place, was devoted to giving a gigantic Jubilee feast to 4,000 of the famine coolies on the Ghaggar Canal Famine Relief Works on June the 22nd, while, finally, by the request of the villagers concerned, a sum of Rs 293, subscribed by some well-to-do banias of Satrand, were made over to the village Gansāla, which had been starved during the previous years of distress. Those who have seen the care with which the Hindus even in this year of scarcity have tended their cattle will not perhaps be disposed to doubt that this assistance, however peculiar it may appear on paper, was felt as a genuine act of beneficent relief by the people themselves.

E.—Gifts to cultivators.

88. It will have been already realised from previous passages in this Report that the district of Hissar is entirely dependent on agriculture, and that, speaking roughly, cultivation in the unirrigated tracts had been generally for two, and in many places for three, years a failure. Stocks too were entirely exhausted, and on the 26th of June out of a population of 7½ lakhs over

1 lakh of persons were in receipt of relief. The rapid rise in the number of mortgages too, which had been going on for a whole year, sounded yet another note of alarm, and when Government determined to expend 5 lakhs of rupees in takavi loans to agriculturists, who could furnish security, the District Committee decided to make its great effort in this direction too, and voted for that purpose Rs. 2,35,000 to be given away in grants to those cultivators whose lands were mortgaged, and who were, therefore, debarred from taking loans.

89. The arrangements for the distribution of the money were the same as those which officers were instructed to follow in giving out the Government takavi, and both operations went on at once. Arrangements for the distribution. The district was divided into four parts by Tahsils, and four responsible officers were entrusted each with one of them. Lieutenant A. S. Stephen, Assistant Commissioner, was appointed to Fatahabad with an allotment from the Charitable Fund of Rs. 66,000; Sheikh Din Muhammad, Khan Sahib, Sub-Divisional Officer of Sirsa, arranged for the distribution up to Rs. 59,500 in his own Sub-Division; the Tahsils of Hansi and Bhiwani, with a joint grant of Rs. 70,500, were entrusted to Lala Sansar Chand, Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner; while Mr. M. S. D. Butler, Assistant Commissioner, with Rs. 39,000, took charge of the Sadr Tahsil. Each officer was instructed to see every rupee paid into the hands of the recipient himself. The preliminary arrangements were completed by the middle of June. Village lists of applicants were prepared by the Tahsildars and Treasurers, and Police Guards to protect the chests of money were appointed for each officer. Up to this point no distinction had been made between the applicants for loans from Government and for gifts from the Charitable Fund, nor, indeed was any one informed that any gifts were to be made at all. It was seen that if it was generally known that a large sum was to be given away, it would be impossible to carry out the Government programme, as every cultivator would consider that his claims to a gift were superior to those of his neighbours. It was therefore decided to select from each village those people whose claims to assistance of some sort were obvious, and to make the test of whether the grant was to be from Government or from the Charitable Fund, the easily ascertainable fact whether the applicant's land was mortgaged or not. Thus where a man's land was free from any encumbrance the grant sanctioned was debited to Government and the security of his land taken, while in cases in which he had no security to offer the disbursement was charged to the Charitable Fund. As in either case receipts, stamped, where necessary, were taken, the cultivators never found out the distinction which was all the time being made until, on the conclusion of the distribution, they were personally informed of their good fortune. This secrecy had the additional advantage of ensuring that the money was devoted to the purposes of cultivation. Believing that it would have to be paid back the people were naturally more eager to turn it to a profitable use than they would have been had they known it at the time to be a gift. The experience gained in the distribution showed conclusively that the policy adopted was a wise one, as the disbursing officers were unanimous in reporting that had the people known what was going on it would have been impossible to carry out their work.

90. The actual distribution did not commence till the third week in July. The heavy clouds which had gathered up towards the middle of June had cleared away without the long desired fall of rain, and with the people in the condition in which they were, and with the experience of the 1868-69 famine in mind, and its stern warning against premature expenditure of this sort, operations were postponed until more favourable meteorological conditions should set in. This was most fortunate; again and again the clouds backed up, and again and again were dissipated with no results, and hope was giving way to despair when the reports from Delhi and Rewari and the hopeful aspect of the skies seemed to show that work might at last be begun, and on July the 18th the order was given to commence and to conclude the distribution, if feasible, within ten days: This proved to be impossible. Owing to the absence of the villagers on Relief Works, when the preliminary lists were prepared, a mass of new applications was begun with the first fall of rain to pour in, and the press of work involved may be realised from the fact that, apart altogether from the recipients of Government loans no less than 26,485 claims were investigated and passed as against the Charitable Fund alone.

91. The scene at the distribution was a busy one. In the shade of some out-of-the-way Dāk Bungalow verandah, or beneath the porch of a tent might be seen the distributing officer with the lists of claimants and the reports of the Tahsildars before him. On one side seated upon the ground would be the Treasurer with his heaps of silver before him, and on the other two or three Clerks writing receipts. In front would be an eager crowd of villagers waiting under the guidance of their village headmen for their names to be called and to hear their fate. The distributing officer would then scan the list to see the amount of the claimant's holding, and to what extent he cultivated it himself, and whether it was mortgaged or not, and would read the Tahsildar's report as to the man's condition and the number of his cattle left alive, and the amount which on the sanctioned scale he should get, and then, after brief enquiries here and there, to see that the compilers of the lists were acting fairly, would come the order to pay so much, and an entry, as circumstances demanded, in the officer's own hand either in the column reserved for loans from Government, or in that for

charitable gifts. Meanwhile the Treasurer would have entered the amount of his disbursement in his own books and the money would be paid there and then, while on the other side the Clerk would be writing a receipt to be marked or signed before the recipient went away. As each village was completed the receipts and the Treasurer's lists and the distributing officer's entries were compared and total struck and any error at once rectified. This done, the villagers were told to go off to their homes straight away with their money to prevent their being made the prey of those harpies who, where rupees are gathered together for disbursement, are always to be found hovering around.

92. The procedure, of course, varied somewhat in each Tahsil, but the above description would be a typical one. The points aimed at were rapidity and the certainty that the money reached the recipient. The former was secured by the loyalty with which every subordinate answered to the call made upon him, and the latter may be confidently assumed; as no man had any money to give away in "gratuities" when he came, and as every rupee allotted was paid into the recipient's hands before the eyes of a responsible officer. That having felt the hard cash in their hands the peasantry of this part would be likely to part with any quantity of it in order to gratify the underlings of Government is an hypothesis which those who know the people do not seriously consider.

93. In all Rs. 2,35,375 were expended in grants to 26,485 persons, or at an average rate of Rs. 8.89 each. Of the 26,485 recipients 8,081 were landholders in their own right, and to them were given Rs. 95,870, or 40.73 per cent. of the whole total; 4,641 were tenants with rights of occupancy, and they received Rs. 38,187, or 16.22 per cent. of the whole total; whilst among 13,763 tenants-at-will was divided a sum of Rs. 1,01,318, being the equivalent on the total amount disbursed of 43.05 per cent. If the objects for which the money was given be taken into consideration it will be found that 13.34 per cent. of the expenditure was intended directly for the purchase of cattle, 29.98 per cent. for their hire, and 56.68 per cent. for the purchase of seed-grain. The apparent excess of the hire money over the purchase money given for cattle may be explained by the fact that where it was impossible to give two relatives each a bullock, both men received a half-share, and this has been entered in the returns as a grant for hire. It would be safer, therefore, to say that 56.68 per cent. went in the purchase of seed grain, and 43.32 per cent. in the purchase and hire of cattle. Nothing perhaps was more strikingly impressed on the distributing officer than the utter dearth of seed grain stocks, and too of ready money which was found to exist in the district.

Analysis of the figures of Statement
No. 15 attached.

PART III.—SUMMARY.

	Page.		Page.
Chapter XIII.—Combined District State- ment	523	Chapter XIV.—Notice of services rendered, &c.	524

CHAPTER XIII.—THE COMBINED FINAL DISTRICT STATEMENT.

93. It only now remains to gather up into a head the figures which have been given in the preceding Chapters, but a word of explanation is first necessary. It will have been seen already that the relief given in this district has been conceived rather as falling into three main lines than as under the five objects of Form B. It has been found, that is, that a simplification of ideas, and with it an increased vigor of action, may be obtained by looking at the nature of the relief given in preference to the objects to which it may be devoted. It is not in any way intended here to criticise the recognised classification, but merely to state that the whole scheme of the Committee's organisation, its returns and a certain part of this report were framed on the idea of a three-fold division into continuous, isolated and other expenditure before Form B was sent down to be filled up. It has, therefore, seemed best, while fulfilling with the requirements of the new forms, to continue otherwise on the lines originally laid down.

94. In Statement No. 16 attached have been gathered together all the items of continuous relief, that is to say, of relief, which has been continued to the same recipient from day to day. From this it appears that, spread over a period of 38 weeks, the longest time for which any item of this kind of assistance was in progress, an average daily number of 2,115 persons took relief at the net cost of R24,259-2-1. This result, expressed in the terms of a single day, is equivalent to saying that on one day 562,632 units received relief at a charge to the Fund of 8 pies per unit, while the whole of the disbursements under this heading form 9'20 per cent. of the whole of the Fund's expenditure.

95. In Statement No. 17, submitted herewith, may be found a table of all the charges incurred on behalf of single individuals on isolated occasions. From this it will be manifest that in all 33,162 individuals received relief in this manner at a cost per head of R7-2-5, and at an expense to the Fund of R2,37,172-1-0, or 90'00 per cent. of the whole of the sums disbursed on relief. Of this sum no less than R2,35,375, or 89'31 per cent. of the whole expenditure, was incurred on gifts to 26,485 cultivators.

96. Thus there only remains the matter of other expenditure to be accounted for. This is exhibited in Statement No. 18 attached. The whole charge under this heading amounted only to R2,109-4-5, of which R1,816-4-5, or 69 per cent. of the whole of the expenditure, represents the cost of administration. It is creditable to the zeal of the charitably minded gentlemen of the district, and to the activity of the subordinate officers of Government, that of this sum the charge for establishment reached only R988-12-2 or '37 per cent. of the total amount of the Committee's expenditure.

97. The final complete results of the Committee's action during the last year are shown in the usual Forms A and B and the Statement No. 19 attached. This last is designed to exhibit the Committee's actions as regarded both from the point of view of the character and of the "objects" of the relief given. It will be seen that the whole expenditure incurred was R2,63,540-7-6, of which '56 per cent. was disbursed under Object I, a negligible quantity under Object II, 9'06 per cent. under Object III, 89'69 per cent. under Object IV, and '69 per cent. on Miscellaneous Charges. It is not proposed to analyse these figures any further, as the statement may be left to tell its own tale. Two matters for comment, however, suggest themselves.

98. It will be noticed, first that the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of orphans was a negligible quantity. This is the more remarkable as the percentage of the population in receipt of relief on the whole of the population of the district was probably higher than in any other part of India, in spite of the restriction of purely eleemosynary relief to comparatively insignificant limits. The District Committee has given the widest publicity to its perfect readiness to maintain those children who have lost their parents and relatives, and it can only be argued from their non-appearance that there is no need for this assistance. Whether the result of the usual fever and pneumonia of the cold weather months will be to carry off the family bread-winner remains to be seen, but it is understood that the Central Committee of the Fund is holding up money with a view to expenditure under this head.

99. The second point for comment is the magnitude of the expenditure under Object IV. This too requires but little explanation, as the reasons which led the Committee to make such large grants to cultivators have been already explained. It will not be amiss though to reiterate here what has been the great experience of the famine in this district. This is that, whatever may be the possibilities in parts which are only distressed, it is essential in a "broken" district for charity, if it is not to pauperise, to be devoted mainly to filling in the gaps of the Government schemes, and above all to the starting of the people afresh in life when the distress has passed away. In a broken district experience has shown that it is not practicable to draw distinctions in distress, and the only result of an expenditure on continuous relief in the villages, apart from that given by Government, would have been to have thrown over one of the central planks in the Government policy, namely, the rigid restrictions in the numbers on gratuitous and poor-house relief, and would unquestionably have done more harm than good. In conclusion, it need only be said that of all the expenditure incurred that on grants to cultivators has been of pre-eminent importance, and that second to that in utility has been that on clothes, and though it is a small matter in itself, that on valedictory doles. This latter item has been instrumental in saving the towns from an inrush of beggars, and the recipients from their worst enemies themselves.

CHAPTER XIV.—NOTICE OF SERVICES RENDERED.

100. There remains only the pleasant task of recording the thanks of the District Committee to those gentlemen who have so generously given their services or their money in support of its efforts on behalf of the distressed. The local subscriptions, amounting to ₹17,306-8-7, were collected mainly from the well-to-do mahajans of the four principal towns, and amongst them it would be invidious to draw distinctions. Besides these contributions and those of the lawyers in Hissár it would only be fitting to notice that no less than ₹1,441-3-6 were collected through the agency of the Baptist Zenána Mission under the management of Miss Theobald in Bhiwáni, some of which was subscribed in India and some by friends at home. It should also be recorded that, as became the leading member of a family whose whole history is so closely associated with the district, Mr. Stanley Skinner, Honorary Magistrate and Honorary Lieutenant, 1st B. C., was not backward in making a handsome donation on behalf of Mrs. Skinner and himself, whilst amongst several other items of interest a considerable contribution from the master, fellows and under-graduates of Pembroke College, Cambridge, was very heartily welcomed as a token of interest from a quarter whence it was not (?) unexpected.

101. Of those who have rendered their services—and these must always be the most valuable—the foremost place would be given by common consent to Miss Theobald, whose work in Bhiwáni, embracing as it did almost every branch of relief, is held in grateful recollection, both by those who have been benefited from her charity and those who have been privileged to see her work. Alone, with Miss Philips, to whom the Committee's thanks are also due, in a town reeking with intrigue and rotten with speculative wealth, she has battled with famine and distress, under the most trying climatic conditions, and in the face of an incipient choleraic outbreak, in a manner which can only excite both sympathy and admiration. She has been able to reach, moreover, by virtue of her sex that class of *parda*-women which no charitable organization can over hope properly to relieve. It was with good reason, though with a fine disregard for the limits of human possibilities, that an old Mubamadan zaildár asked at a meeting of the District Committee, whether the "Miss Sahib at Bhiwáni could not be asked to visit all the villages in the district."

102. The thanks of the Committee are also due to Bábu Chura Mani, Vakil, who has acted as Secretary to the Hissár Town Committee, and to whose industry and business-like habits the success of that body's operations are mainly due. Lálá Sohan Lál, the Government Treasurer and Vice-President of the Town Charitable Committee, and Lálá Gauri Shankar, have also shown a sympathetic interest in the work. The credit for the good management of the Hánsi town relief is due, in the first place, to the Tahsildár, Lálá Phundan Lál, who has acted as President of the Local Committee, but the services of the other members of the Committee were none the less appreciated. This body has conducted its operations and correspondence in the most business-like manner, and the credit for the latter is due to its competent Secretary. Of those who have worked in Bhiwáni, the foremost has been Lálá Sálíg Rám, a member of the Municipal Committee. This gentleman was entrusted by Miss Theobald with certain branches of her relief work, and the Committee's thanks are due to him for his efforts. The services of Lálás Naurang Rai, Jairám Dás and Rám Gopál in maintaining private poor-houses have already been alluded to. In Sirsa, Lálá Ishar Singh has acted as Secretary to the Town Committee, and Lálá Ram Sukh Dás, Treasurer of Rohtak, and his son, Lálá Rám Gopal, a member of the Municipal Committee, have as usual been to the fore.

103. Of the officers and subordinate officials of Government who have lent their services it is hard to speak. All, down to the lowest graded patwári, have cheerfully responded to the calls made upon them, and it is difficult to mention names. It would be impossible though not to thank Sheik Din Muhammad, Khan Sahib, Sub-Divisional Officer of Sirsa, for what he has done, both generally in supervision and particularly in the distribution of grants to cultivators. His presence in that outlying and sadly broken part of the district has been a sure guarantee that the money allotted to Sirsa has been carefully spent, and to the full satisfaction of the recipients themselves. A word of gratitude is also due to Lála Sansár Chand, Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner. This officer distributed no less than ₹70,434 in grants to cultivators besides arranging for many other matters, and the extra strain thrown upon him has been very real. It is hardly necessary though to say that it has been cheerfully undertaken. Of the Tahsildárs special thanks are due to Munshi Badri Pershád of Fatahabad, whose reputation as a famine administrator needs no further increase. Of the Naib-Tahsildárs, Pandit Mohan Kishen did good service over the distribution of grants to cultivators in the Hissár Tahsíl, and he has the Committee's thanks.

104. Of those who have helped in the office work special mention should be made of Mr Muhammad Husain, the Deputy Commissioner's Head Clerk, and Pandit Harbans Lál, the Head Treasury Clerk of the district. Both these officials have rendered very real services, and have ever been ready to undertake any labours, however arduous. At the outset of the famine the District Committee was ready to pay for the services of an extra Clerk in the English Office, and the offer was duly communicated to Mr Muhammad Husain. He, however, on behalf of himself and his office begged to be allowed to do the Committee's extra work as their offering to the Fund. Only those who have seen the enormous masses of papers which have had to pass through the English Office can realise what this offer has meant. To Pandit Harbans Lál is due all that is satisfactory in the Committee's accounts. A famine expenditure of some 16 lakhs during the last year from Government funds alone has thrown a great strain on the Treasury Clerks, and that in spite of this, time has been found to keep the Committee's accounts in good order, is highly creditable to all concerned, and it is fortunate for the Committee that it has been able to command such reliable services. It is difficult for an unofficial body to obtain perfection, but it has been the aim of the District Committee throughout so to arrange its accounts as to satisfy the requirements of an *official* audit, and that it has been able to formulate this ideal is principally due to Pandit Harbans Lál.

105. Finally, the thanks of the Committee are due to those without whose generous aid nothing could have been done at all—the subscribers to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. As one looks back over the events of the last 12 months it is almost impossible to realise the magnitude of the work which has been accomplished in this district, and the memory of it will live amongst the people when the recollection of sufferings patiently endured has passed away. It is one of the happy privileges of the unfortunate to be able to forget, and with the sight of a bountiful harvest to invigorate them the people of Hissár have already fallen back into their old ways, and life has almost resumed its normal aspect. Those, however, who have anxiously watched and worked to keep the machinery of relief from breaking down will remember many things, and will ever be thankful for the generous support they have received. The varying scenes of the drama have been in turn played out: the commencement of relief in November 1896, and the feeling that after all there might be winter rains; the failure of the rains; the opening of gratuitous relief and the ever-increasing volume of the applicants for work; the commencement of the hot weather, and with it the agonies of thirst as well as of hunger; the advent of landed proprietors on to the works—the Ráughar, the Jat, and finally the Bishnoi; the continuous dust-storms and the scorching heat; the scenes of desolation from some rising hillock with nothing to break the arid monotony of unending sand but a few *kair* bushes, and cattle grubbing in the ground like swine and finding nothing; the empty villages; the banked up clouds in June and their disappearance; the awful three weeks of suspense when it seemed as if nature was minded to work her own way and thwart all the efforts of man; the breaking of the monsoon, and with it the wild rush for *takávi* grants with which to start cultivation afresh; the flights of locusts and their devastations, and yet the harvest secured, and with the harvest the abandonment of despair and bright hopes for the future: such are the recollections which remain. The famine of 1896-97 will, it may be prophesied, form yet another era for this district, but with what a difference! and as to the feelings of the people, who can tell? That a profound impression has been created is certain, and that in the sluggish east is a great thing. In India ideas move slowly, and it is foolish to suppose that the experience of the last 12 months has suddenly transformed the thoughts and feelings of centuries; still it is not too much to say that amongst many of the higher classes whose only word for "duty" has meant that which a man must do or suffer for it, this famine has awakened the sense of a more sacred obligation, while amongst the less prosperous, to whom "gratitude" has been but the mere formal giving of thanks, it has ushered in perhaps the dawn of a new feeling.

Review and Summary of the results of my inspections of the accounts of the various District Famine Charitable Committees in the Punjab.

In paragraph 2 of the letter, dated 31st August 1897, from the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Calcutta, I was directed at the conclusion of my travelling duties to make a clear but succinct report on the result of my inspections of the District Famine Charitable committee's accounts, with special reference to the points noted in paragraph 4 of the Government of India's letter No. ^{2785 F.}₁₈₉₋₁₀, dated 18th August 1897. The points specially noticed are, that I was to examine and review the accounts kept by Local Committees to such an extent as will satisfy the Central Committee:—

- (a) that the Fund has been expended in accordance with the prescribed objects;
- (b) that accounts of expenditure have been properly kept; and
- (c) that efficient check over the expenditure has been exercised.

I have examined the accounts in each district, and I have already noticed everything in full detail in my diaries. I now proceed to give a summary of the results of my inspections as desired.

Local Committees had been formed in all the districts either for the purpose of administering the Fund or for collecting local subscriptions and remitting them to the Provincial Committee, or for both purposes. The District Officer as a rule was Chairman of the Local Committee, the exceptions being Gujranwála, where the Additional District Judge was Chairman, and the District Officer, Patron; Mooltan, where the Sessions Judge, Mr. Kennedy, was Chairman; Rohtak, where the Treasury Officer was Chairman, and Montgomery, where the Settlement Officer, Mr. Fagan, was Chairman, and the District Officer, Vice-Chairman. Gurgáon was the only district which had no District Famine Committee; the District Officer, however, controlled the Fund. In Rohtak, though the Treasury Officer was Chairman, yet the District Officer exercised a most careful supervision, and nothing was done without his orders. It will thus be seen that the Fund in each district was administered principally under orders of some responsible officer of Government, assisted by a Local Committee.

The portion of the fund which was expended in gifts to cultivators for purchase of ploughs, or well cattle and seed, and which is by far the greater portion of the Fund, was administered exclusively by District Officers. In Lahore the District Officer (Mr. Meredith) disbursed very nearly the whole of the money under this head himself. In Jhang the District Officer (Captain Burlton) disbursed the whole himself. In Karnál, Mr. Connolly, the District Officer, disbursed a great part himself; and in almost all the remaining districts Deputy Commissioners made the best arrangements they could for disbursing the money. These arrangements were extremely satisfactory in Ferozepore, Hissár, Karnál, Delhi, Rohtak, Siálkot, Montgomery, Bannu and Hoshiárpur; they were good in most of the remaining districts, but they were not very satisfactory in Gujranwála, Gujrá, Jhelum and Mooltán, where the money was disbursed by Tahsildárs. In Gujrá, however, after the matter was brought to notice, the Deputy Commissioner, Nawáb Muhammad Afzal Khan, was requested to disburse the money himself, which he did.

The expenditure under the remaining three heads was administered chiefly by Local Committees, which were composed invariably of the most respectable and well-to-do inhabitants of the towns. The Honorary Secretary in each case was a man of undoubted respectability and good standing; the non-official Honorary Secretaries were leading pleaders, as was the case in Delhi, Amballa, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Jullundur. I invariably found the accounts in excellent order where a pleader was the Honorary Secretary.

As a rule, the local collections were kept separate from the contributions received from the Provincial Committees. The former generally remained in the hands of one of the members of the Committee, who was appointed Honorary Treasurer; the latter was deposited in a Bank in those districts where such was possible, and in the remaining districts they were deposited either in the Government Treasury or remained with the Government Treasurer.

In all the districts Local Committees were extremely careful in the manner in which they expended the money received from the Provincial Committees; they were also careful of the manner in which the local collections were expended, but the general idea prevailing was that they had greater latitude in expending the local collections than the Provincial allotments. In many instances there has been much difficulty in obtaining accounts and statistics of money collected locally and expended *before* the formation of the Provincial Committee. Accurate and good accounts have been maintained in all districts of money received from the Provincial Committee, and of local collections realised and expended *after* the formation of the Provincial Committee.

Vouchers were forthcoming for all payments for purchases of grain to stock the cheap grainshops, but they were as a rule unstamped, and it was said that the grain-dealers declared it was not customary with them to grant receipts much less stamped receipts. Receipts for other articles purchased were invariably stamped.

On the whole the Fund has been expended well within the prescribed objects; accurate accounts have been maintained and efficient check exercised.

LAHORE;

The 1st December 1897.

S. S. HARRIS,
*Extra Assistant Commissioner,
on Special Duty.*

Report of distribution of clothing supplied by the Famine Relief Committee.

Almost all the garments received by us have been distributed to widows and orphans, a very large number of whom were nearly destitute of decent garments. The cases of urgent need are so numerous that it is difficult to pick out the worst, but we can speak of those mentioned below as having been specially needy and deserving.

A poor Muhammadan widow, who has supported herself by grinding, but who is now unable to work on account of ill-health. She was recommended as one in great need to help, and when visited was seated on her door, still warming herself in the sun. She was almost too feeble to rise, and begged that we would give her something to keep out the cold. Her dwelling was a wretched little cell, built in the lower part of a house, and round the angle of a well. There was not sufficient room in it for a full-sized *charpai*, or bedstead; and she had only one or two earthen jars besides a child's bed in the place. She was very grateful for the garments given. This woman, like many others relieved, is of low caste, but is too respectable to turn mendicant.

Khán Bibi is a girl employed as an under-teacher in one of our schools, but receives only one rupee per month as she is kept chiefly for her own sake. She is the only child living of a widowed mother, who is almost blind, and too infirm to grind, the only work she might do. These two have no sure means of support beyond the one rupee earned by the girl. Khán Bibi and the other teachers in this school have done a great deal during the past year to help on the industrial relief work we undertook, and worked very hard in giving out the cotton for spinning. Khán Bibi herself is partly invalided, as her spine has been affected from childhood.

Another very distressing case is that of a Hindu woman of good caste; both she and her husband are afflicted, he being totally, and she almost, blind. She came to beg for relief with only a few tattered and filthy rags on her, and this in cold weather. This poor woman went away crying with gratitude for the clothes she received; she has no children, and she and her husband are dependent on the charity of their neighbours for their daily food.

One very old woman, who shakes with the palsy and feebleness of extreme old age, was dressed in a mere bundle of rags and went away happy with some warm and decent garments. She is a widow, and has lost five sons, and is now utterly destitute.

Parbatti, a woman of the *sais* class, was another very needy case. Her husband died while she was quite young, and as she may not marry again she is dependent for life on the gifts of her relations. She and her old mother, also widowed, get enough to keep them alive from various relatives, but Parbatti had next to no clothing.

These cases might be multiplied indefinitely. Many to whom this timely aid in the form of clothing has been given are from amongst those who came to us for spinning last winter. In very many cases the women are widows with several young children to support, and many more are worse than widows. In our own schools we have given to a good many orphans, who would otherwise have had but little to protect them from the severity of the winter cold.

Two scrap books from some children, either at Leicester or Leominster, for the little Indian children were enclosed in the bale of clothing sent us. Unfortunately the slip of paper with them has been mislaid, and we are, therefore, not quite certain of the place from which they came. They have gone to some very small and very wild little famine orphans in a school at Delhi, who have never seen such a thing before.

It has been a great comfort to us to have these garments to give to some of the very many in such distress, and the hearts of the kind friends who gave and made them would be more than rewarded for all their labour if they could see the relief and gratitude with which they have been received.

C. E. HEALEY,

4th December 1897.

M. FOX,
Z. B. M. Mission, Lahore.

Report of the work done amongst the destitute women of Lahore.

I.—How the money received from the Famine Relief Committee was spent.—In a former report written in April I gave an account of the way in which we were spending the money given for the relief of the poor women in this city. Work was provided for these women, spinning cotton, plain sewing and embroidery, so I will not enlarge on that point; only add that at that time there were only five or six hundred women on our list. The numbers increased every month, and in the end of June, when the work was closed, there were 1,500 women who were thus being helped.

II.—Industrial School opened for Khatri widows.—I mentioned in my last report that a large number of very respectable widows, most of them belonging to the Khatri caste, and all well connected, had been recommended to us by the Khatri Association for help. Work was provided for them also, but when all operations were closed in June these women were in such distress that we applied for a further grant of money for them. The money was given, and an Industrial School has been opened under the supervision of some benevolent Khatri gentlemen, who have taken much interest in the work, and who are trying to collect private subscriptions in order to place the school on a permanent basis. Their aim is to help widows to learn some industry by which they can earn their own living in their own homes. I visited this school a few days ago, and was much interested in seeing about thirty women learning the art of lace-weaving, that is, first making tinsel thread, and then weaving it according to different patterns. This kind of gold lace is much used in this country and finds a ready sale in the market. Two female teachers have been employed to teach the women, and the Secretary told me that twenty widows are now quite proficient in this art and are able to support themselves.

A list of aged and infirm widows had been prepared by the Secretary, and to these—in number fifty—clothing was distributed. As they came up to receive the garments, it was gratifying to see their withered old faces lighting up, and to hear their words of gratitude and prayers for blessings on those who had sent these presents for them. They were much touched when I told them that some of the garments had been sewn by English ladies for the poor of this land.

III.—Distribution of clothing.—Three bales of clothing for distribution were sent to me: one I forwarded to Miss Fox, who is sending a separate report, and the contents of two have been disposed of by me. On looking at my note-book I find that I have given this clothing to 271 people, mostly to women and children, and a small portion to men. Most of the recipients were utterly destitute; there are, however, others who, though not actually starving, have with difficulty managed to exist in these hard times; they have just been able to provide themselves with food, but have no surplus money with which to get some clothing for the winter, which in the Punjab is very severe.

I will now give the history of one or two women to illustrate the sort of people who have been receiving these gifts.

J. is a bright cheerful old lady; to see her no one would guess her story of sorrow and despair. There are hundreds of women like her apparently happy and cheerful, but with sad stories hidden away in the innermost recesses of their hearts. Her husband died many years ago, but he left some land, on the proceeds of which she and her son lived pretty comfortably. This son, her only child, died in the prime of life, and so great was her grief that in despair she threw herself in the river Ravi with a view to putting an end to her life. She was seen by some boatmen and rescued, but again attempted suicide by taking arsenic. The dose was small, and she did not die. After this she got a stroke of paralysis, and for years considered herself a victim of God's wrath and so great a sinner that death would never release her from her sufferings. After lying on her bed for five years, during which time she sold her land and spent the money, she heard of a Mission Hospital, to which she was taken by a neighbour, where, after a long medical treatment, she was restored to health. Now she has no money and no near relations or friends, so she does a little nursing in the same hospital and earns Rs. 3 per month, but that during these months of famine has been barely sufficient for food. She was thinly clad and shivering with the cold when I saw her; and when a warm "kurta" was given to her she was very grateful and pleased.

S. D. is an old blind woman; in her youth she was a very pretty woman, was well married, and lived in ease and comfort. Her husband going to his office one day was bitten by a snake and died within a few hours, leaving her a widow with a little boy of three. For some years she lived on the money her husband had left, but another great sorrow came upon her in the death of her boy, who died of cholera. Since her husband's death much of her time had been spent in weeping, and now she spent days and nights in crying, so much so that her eyes were quite injured, and now that she is old she has become quite blind. The little hoard of money dwindled away fast, and now she lives in a wretched hovel and is dependent on the charity of her neighbours. Some clothing was sent for her, and again and again she sent her salaams for the gift.

If the little children in England who have contributed their farthings and pennies towards providing clothes for little destitute ones in India could have seen two little

cripple boys, each of whom received a new suit of clothes, they would have been delighted. One of these boys, though a cripple for years, is now much better, and lately has given up using even a crutch. His legs are still crooked, but he can walk along pretty well now. The other one cannot stand upright; he drags himself in a nimble fashion in a sitting position. When the garments were given to them they danced about (as well as they could) with joy, and the latter ran along on all fours with delight. They were profuse in their salaams to the donors.

About most of these women, with whom we have come in contact in this time of distress, sad and pathetic stories might be told. Stories of grief and sorrow, privation and misery.

I will not add more, only close with the words which are often upon the lips of these women,—“Look at our kind Sarkár” (“Sarkár” implies Government, and anything done by English people, either collectively or individually, is attributed by the people here to the British Government); “during the months of famine we were supplied with work, and now that the winter has come clothes have been sent for us all the way from England. May God bless the Sarkár.”

LAHORE :
The 8th December 1897. }

M. BOSE,
Victoria School.

FORM B.

Statement showing details of relief operations from

Number of persons relieved

DISTRICT.	OBJECT I.									
	A.—Clothing, Blankets, etc., to persons in receipt of Government relief whether in poor-houses, kitchens or outside.									
	(i) Number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given.				If possible, state—				(ii) Number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing.	
	(a) The articles being sent from England.	(b) The articles being provided by the Provincial Committee.	(c) The cloth or article being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee.	Total number of persons.	(1) Expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under column (c).	(2) How much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers.	(3) How much from petty shopkeepers.	(4) How much in buying from large cloth dealers.	No.	Amount.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	No.	R a. p.
1. Hissar . . .	105	160	221	476	42 9 6	...	42 9 6	...	...	...
2. Rohtak
3. Gurgaon
4. Delhi
5. Karnal
6. Umballa
7. Simla
8. Kangra
9. Hoshiarpur
10. Jullundur
11. Ludhiana
12. Ferozepore
13. Mooltan
14. Jhang
15. Montgomery
16. Lahore
17. Amritsar
18. Gurdaspur
19. Sialkot
20. Gujrat
21. Gujranwala
22. Shahpur
23. Jhelum
24. Rawalpindi
25. Hazara
26. Peshawar
27. Kohat
28. Bannu
29. Dera Ismail Khan
30. Dera Ghazi Khan
31. Muzaffargarh
TOTAL . . .	105	150	221	476	42 9 6	...	42 9 6	...	...	...

B.

JAB.

the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

printed in antique type.

OBJECT I.— <i>contd.</i>											
B.—Other expenditure in poor-houses or kitchens.											
(i) <i>Maintaining poor-houses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them.</i>											
(a) Amount spent in building and furnishing poor-houses or kitchens.	(b) Establishment charges.	(c) Conveying paupers to poor-houses.	(d) Rations and comforts.	(e) Other expenditure.		Total.	(1) Length of time during which poor-house and kitchen was open.	(2) Total number of persons who came to the poor-house and kitchen.	(3) Highest number in poor-house and kitchen on any one day.	(4) Average daily number of inmates.	
				Details.	Amount.						
R. s. p.	R. s. p.	R. s. p.	R. s. p.		R. s. p.	R. s. p.		No.	No.	No.	
...	1
...	2
...	3
...	4
...	5
...	6
...	7
...	8
...	9
...	10
...	11
...	12
...	13
...	14
...	15
141 13 3	276 5 6	...	936 8 0	...	78 12 6	1,433 7 3	7th April 1897 to 31st October 1897.	381	104	46	16
...	17
...	18
...	19
...	20
...	21
...	22
...	23
...	24
...	25
...	26
...	27
...	28
...	29
...	30
...	31
141 13 3	276 5 6	...	936 8 0	...	78 12 6	1,433 7 3	...	381	104	46	

OBJECT I—continued.

B.—Other expenditure in poor-houses or kitchens—continued.

Provision of "Comforts" in Government poor-house.

DISTRICT.	(a) Cost of milk supply.	(b) Purchase of lime-juice and other comforts.	(c) Money distributed for purchase of additional food.	(d) Other expenditure.		Total.	(1) Length of time during which comforts were provided.	(2) Total number of persons who were provided with comforts.	(3) Average daily number supplied.		
				Details.	Amount.				A. With milk.		B. With other comforts.
									Child- ren.	Others.	
	Rs a. p.	Rs a. p.	Rs a. p.		Rs a. p.	Rs a. p.	Time.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1. Hissar	...	74 14 3	719 6 1	Beds and petty items.	113 5 0	907 9 4	28th Mar. 1897 to 11th Sept. 1897.	...	...	...	305
2. Rohtak
3. Gurgaon
4. Delhi
5. Karnal
6. Umballa
7. Simla
8. Kangra
9. Hoshiarpur
10. Jullundur
11. Ludhiana
12. Ferozepore
13. Mooltan
14. Jhang
15. Montgomery
16. Lahore
17. Amritsar
18. Gurdaspur
19. Sialkot
20. Gujrat
21. Gujranwala
22. Shahpur
23. Jhelum
24. Rawalpindi
25. Hazara
26. Peshawar
27. Kohat
28. Bannu
29. Dera Ismail Khan
30. Dera Ghazi Khan
31. Muzaffargarh
TOTAL	...	74 14 0	719 6 1	...	113 5 0	907 9 4	...	...	...	...	305

OBJECT I—continued.

C.—Other expenditure on persons in receipt of Government relief outside poor-houses.

[illegible]

OBJECT I—concluded.

C.—Other expenditure, the famine wage on Relief Works—concluded.						D.— Other relief under heading " Object I " (such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief Works or to their own villages). Grants made to poor people out of Relief Officers' imprests.			
(iii) Providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about Relief Works.									
DISTRICT.	(a) Total amount so expended.	(b) Period during which it was expended.	(c) Average number for each day.			Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.
			A.	B.	C.				
			Children.	Aged person.	Infirm person.				
1. Hissar	R a. p.	...	..	...	...	(1) Grants to wanderers. (2) Jubilee dinner to workers on relief works. (3) Contribution to Sirsa Dispensary.	August and September. 22nd June .	R a. p. 50 1 0 375 15 0 100 0 0	472 4,000 100
2. Rohtak
3. Gurgaon
4. Delhi	Grant to Mission Hospital for women.	Three months	600 0 0	120
5. Karnal
6. Umballa
7. Simla
8. Kangra
9. Hoshiarpur
10. Jullundur
11. Ludhiana
12. Ferozepur
13. Mooltan
14. Jhang
15. Montgomery
16. Lahore	Grant to Chaplain for Strangers' Home.	...	215 0 0	...
17. Amritsar
18. Gurdaspur
19. Sialkot
20. Gujrat	Relief of paupers by doles who would ordinarily have been on Government list of relief works.	21st April 1897 to 31st July 1897.	4,838 6 6	2,818
21. Gujranwala
22. Shahpur
23. Jhelum
24. Rawalpindi
25. Hazara
26. Peshawar
27. Kohat
28. Bannu
29. Dera Ismail Khan
30. Dera Ghazi Khan
31. Muzaffargarh
TOTAL	6,179 6 6	7,510

TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER OBJECT I, R8,563-0-7

OBJECT II.—ORPHANS—continued.

DISTRICT.	B.—Number of orphans to whom clothes were given.			C.—Relief after the famine.						
	(a) The articles being sent from England.	(b) The articles provided by the Provincial Committees.	(c) The cloth or article being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee.	(a) Number of orphans already provided for.	(b) Ages of such orphans under 1 year.			(b) Ages of such orphans over 1 and under 3 years.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Hissar	One orphan at a cost of Rs 2-6.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Rohtak
3. Gurgaon
4. Delhi
5. Karnal
6. Umballa
7. Simla
8. Kangra
9. Hoshiarpur
10. Jullundur
11. Ludhiana
12. Ferozepore
13. Mooltan
14. Jhang
15. Montgomery
16. Lahore
17. Amritsar
18. Gurdaspur
19. Sialkot
20. Gujrat
21. Gujranwala
22. Shahpur
23. Jhelum
24. Rawalpindi
25. Hazara
26. Peshawar]
27. Kohat
28. Bannu
29. Dera Ismail Khan
30. Dera Ghazi Khan
31. Muzaffargarh
TOTAL	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

OBJECT II.—ORPHANS—concluded.

C.—Relief after the famine—concluded.

(a) Ages of such orphans over 3, under 5 years.			(b) Ages of such orphans over 5, under 10 years.			(b) Ages of such orphans over 10 years.			(c) Brief statement of arrangements made for maintenance till such orphans become self-supporting.	(d) Sum paid for such arrangements.	
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
...	The one orphan found after due proclamation was made over to Miss Theobald, a Mission Lady at Bhiwani.	...	1
...	2
...	3
...	4
...	The orphan was sent to the Ferozepore Orphanage.	...	5
...	6
...	7
...	8
...	9
...	10
...	11
...	12
...	13
...	14
...	15
...	16
...	17
...	18
...	19
...	20
...	21
...	22
...	23
...	24
...	25
...	26
...	27
...	28
...	29
...	30
...	31
...	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER OBJECT II, R929-9-0

OBJECT III—continued.

B.—Provision of work to respectable poor (other than that shown under heading "Object IV", as provided for professional workmen).

(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee.							(ii) Work given out, to be sold by the workers.		
(a) Nature of work offered.	(b) Number of people supplied with materials.	(c) Cost of materials.	(d) Quantity of finished product returned by them.	(e) Amount paid for their labour.	(f) Amount received by sale of the produce.	(g) Profit or loss to the Fund.	(a) Nature of work given.	(b) Number of people supplied with materials.	(c) Amount expended.
		R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.			R a. p.
Ginning, spinning, weaving, dyeing, sewing and embroidery.	Daily average 263 for 32 weeks.	4,249 3 9	100 Pyjamas. 269 Ghagris. 95 Kurtas. 30 Dhotis. 370 Chadders 720 Jharans. 4 Daris. 55 Embroidered articles. 386 Maunds of thread. 268 Thans of Garha (cloth).	4,828 7 6	4,452 12 6	Loss' 4,624 14 9	...	...	...
...	2
...	3
...	4
...	5
...	6
...	7
...	8
...	9
...	10
...	11
Ginning cotton.	Actual number 284.	1,532 6 6	334 Maunds 8½ seers of cotton.	209 10 3	1,519 15 6	Loss. 222 1 3	...	...	12
...	13
...	14
...	15
Spinning, sewing, embroidery, etc.	1,500	6,991 10 0	311 Maunds yarn.	7,069 5 6	7,084 2 6	Loss. 6,976 13 0	Cotton to be spun into yarn.	325	240 1 3
Ginning and spinning cotton.	Daily average 205.	2,381 10 6	164 Maunds 27 seers of yarn.	3,639 1 6	A 378 11 3	Loss. 5,642 13 9	...	...	17
...	18
...	19
...	20
...	21
...	22
...	23
...	24
...	25
...	26
...	27
...	28
...	29
...	30
...	31
...	...	15,154 14 9	...	15,746 8 9	13,050 14 6	17,465 13 9	...	325	240 1 3

A. Part only was sold, the rest woven into cloth.

OBJECT III—contd.

DISTRICT.	C.—Grain or cooked food doles to respectable poor.					D.—Money doles to respectable poor for purchase of food.				
	(i) Period during which this relief was given.	(ii) Number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	(iii) Rates of the doles.	(iv) At what intervals given.	(v) Amount expended.	(i) Period during which this relief was given.	(ii) Number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	(iii) Rates of the doles.	(iv) At what intervals given.	(v) Amount expended.
1. Hissar . . .	23-1-97 to 16-10-97	Average 825	½ seer per head per day.	Sanctioned daily and sometimes weekly.	R a. p. 8,483 11 9	20-3-97 to 9-10-97.	Average 1,004	0 0 9 0 1 3	Weekly	R a. p. 8,914 1 6
2. Rohtak . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Gurgaon . . .	7-3-97 to 31-10-97.	Average 265	¼ seer per head per day.	Weekly .	3,932 0 0	1-12-96 to 31-10-97.	Average 87	Monthly rate. 1 2 0	Weekly	2,340 1 8
4. Delhi . . .	1-11-96 to 31-10-97.	Actual number, 4,724	12 to 24 seers per month.	Fortnightly and monthly.	35,919 8 4	1 Month	Actual No. 64	Monthly rate 2 0 0	Monthly	128 0 0
5. Karnal . . .	29-1-97 to 31-10-97.	Daily average, 93	½ seer per head per day.	Weekly .	2,426 13 9	28-3-97 to 15-8-97.	350	Daily rate 0 0 11	Monthly	2,839 6 11
6. Umballa . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1-4-97 to 31-10-97.	1,400	0 8 0 4 0 0	Weekly and monthly	5,456 9 6
7. Simla . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Kangra . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Hoshiarpur . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Jullundur . . .	7-12-96 to 19-8-97.	258	½ seer per day per head.	Weekly .	2,085 9 7	...	...	...	...	...
11. Ludhiana . . .	6 months	Actual No. 43,696	½ seer per day per head.	Do. .	7,651 7 3	...	...	...	...	...
12. Ferozepore . . .	7½ months	Actual No. 18,152	Ditto	Do. .	5,747 4 0	8 months	550	Varying rates.	Some monthly, some once for all.	1,694 10 3
13. Mooltan . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Jhang . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Montgomery . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Lahore . . .	...	...	...	...	...	3 months	8 100	Monthly rate. 1 0 0	Monthly	14 0 0 300 0 0
17. Amritsar . . .	...	...	...	...	...	2 months	12,682	0 6 0	Monthly	12,754 13 6
18. Gurdaspur . . .	1-1-97 to 31-3-97.	Actual No. 2,670	¼ seer per day per head.	Daily .	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
19. Sialkot . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Gujrat . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Gujranwala . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Shahpur . . .	15-11-96 to 24-5-97.	7,082	½ seer per day per head.	Weekly .	4,566 3 6	...	...	...	...	...
23. Jhelum . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Rawalpindi . . .	16-5-97 to 6-7-97.	402	6 to 10 chs. per day per head.	Weekly .	1,013 8 6	...	...	...	...	...
25. Hazara . . .	One day.	Not known	Not known	One day.	411 5 0	...	...	...	...	...
26. Peshawar . . .	20-12-96 to 28-5-97.	1,462	½ seer per day per head.	After 10 days.	14,405 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
27. Kohat . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Bannu . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Dera Ismail Khan . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Dera Ghazi Khan . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Muzaffargarh . . .	1-3-97 to 31-8-97.	79	½ seer per day per head.	Weekly .	275 13 6	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL . . .	...	...	...	...	87,418 5 2	...	...	...	...	34,441 11 4

TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER OBJECT III, R2,08,422-0-9

OBJECT IV.

A.—Provision of employment to professional workmen.

DISTRICT.	(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee.						(ii) Assistance in providing materials for work to be sold by the workers.				
	(a) Nature of employ- ments assisted.	(b) Number of people supplied with money or materials.	(c) Cost of materials (or money advances).	(d) Quantities of finished products returned by them.	(e) Amount paid for their labour.	(f) Amount received by sale of products.	(a) Nature of employ- ments assisted.	(b) Number of people supplied with materials.	(c) Cost of such materials.	(d) Number of people who received money gifts.	(e) Amount of such gifts.
			R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.			R a. p.		R a. p.
1. Hissar
2. Rohtak
3. Gurgaon
4. Delhi
5. Karnal
6. Umballa
7. Simla
8. Kangra
9. Hoshiarpur
10. Jullundur
11. Ludhiana . . .	A	200	12,555 0 0	...	5,042 8 6	1,217 13 9	...	...	...	...	...
12. Ferozepore
13. Mooltan
14. Jhang
15. Montgomery
16. Lahore
17. Amritsar . . .	Weav- ing, sewing, shoe- making, etc.	Daily aver- age 409	7,678 1 9	B	4,586 9 6	5,427 14 3	...	...	...	...	...
18. Gurdaspur
19. Sialkot
20. Gujrat
21. Gujranwala
22. Shahpur
23. Jhelum
24. Rawalpindi
25. Hazara
26. Peshawar
27. Kohat
28. Bannu
29. Dera Ismail Khan
30. Dera Ghazi Khan
31. Muzaffargarh
TOTAL	19,233 1 9	...	9,629 2 0	6,645 12 0	...	...	...	...	...

A. Embroidery, manufacturer of shawls, dress pieces, phulkaris, carpets, etc., etc.

B. Forty-two thousand three hundred and forty-three yards of cloth, 5,153 kurtas, 369 chadders, 7364 taibands, 612 jharans.
Several hundreds of pairs of shoes, several sets of harness, and other articles made of leather.

OBJECT IV—continued.

B.—Assistance towards rebuildings or repairing of houses.			C.—Assistance where only MONEY grants have been given by provision on cattle, seed-grain, etc., to Cultivators							
(i) Number of people assisted.	(ii) Causes of destruction of houses (fire, want, etc.).	(iii) Amount expended.	(i) Number of cultivators assisted.	(ii) (Roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone.	(ii) (Roughly) how many for purchase of seed-grain alone.	(ii) (Roughly) for fodder subsistence of cattle alone.	(ii) (Roughly) for fodder subsistence of cultivator and family alone.	(ii) (Roughly) for wages to labourers alone.	(ii) (Roughly) for more than one of the above objects.	(iii) Amount of gifts made.
		£ s. p.								£ s. p.
...	26,485	...	...	...	...	...	26,485	2,35,375 0 0 1
...	5,000	503	4,162	335	...	...	...	44,090 8 0 2
...	462	462	...	...	...	...	...	6,000 0 0 3
...	150	150	...	...	...	...	...	4,509 6 0 4
...	1,299	...	...	...	...	...	1,299	49,245 0 0 5
...	246	241	5	...	...	...	...	5,000 0 0 6
...
...
12	Fire	60 0 0	405	399	...	...	6	...	...	4,940 0 0 9
...
...	118	102	12	...	4	...	...	3,068 0 0 11
...	2,346	856	100	...	...	...	1,390	55,048 0 0 12
...	197	197	...	...	...	...	...	4,805 0 0 13
...	811	726	85	...	...	...	...	24,434 0 0 14
...	869	267	602	...	...	...	...	11,852 0 0 15
...	2,188	2,182	6	...	...	...	...	81,206 0 0 16
...
...
119	Fire	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	614	614	...	...	...	...	...	14,000 0 0 19
...	1,490	1,490	...	...	...	...	...	29,540 0 0 20
...	448	448	...	...	...	...	...	17,000 0 0 21
...	881	881	...	...	...	...	...	19,975 0 0 22
...	7,085	2,419	4,666	...	...	...	...	70,596 6 6 23
...	1,852	1,852	...	...	...	...	...	40,000 0 0 24
...	353	102	251	...	...	...	...	2,200 0 0 25
...
...
55	Fire	290 0 0	602	602	...	...	...	...	...	14,526 0 0 28
...	470	470	...	...	...	...	...	8,700 0 0 29
...
...
186	...	850 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,46,110 4 6

NOTE.—Each head of a family is only to be counted once even if his gift is meant to cover various items of expenditure.

OBJECT IV—continued.

C.—Assistance where only MONEY grants have been given by provision on cattle, seed-grain, etc., to cultivators—*concd.*

D.—Assistance to Cultivators by grants IN KIND.

DISTRICT.						(i) Cattle.			(ii) Seed.		
	(iv) (Roughly) how much for purchase of cattle.	(iv) (Roughly) how much for purchase of seed grain.	(iv) (Roughly) how much for subsistence of cattle.	(iv) (Roughly) how much for subsistence of cultivator and family.	(iv) (Roughly) how much for wages to labourers.	(1) Number of cattle purchased.	(2) Price of cattle purchased.	(3) Number of cultiva- tors assisted by grants or loans of cattle (esti- mated).	(i) Quantity of seed purchased.	(ii) Price of seed pur- chased.	(iii) Number of cultiva- tors amongst whom distributed.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.		R a. p.			R a. p.	
1. Hissar . .	1,01,974 0 0	1,33,401 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Rohtak . .	18,907 0 0	22,417 0 0	2,766 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Gurgaon . .	4,379 0 0	1,621 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Delhi . .	4,509 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Karnal . .	45,780 0 0	3,465 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Umballa . .	4,956 0 0	44 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Simla . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Kangra . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Hoshiarpur . .	4,910 0 0	...	...	30 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Jullundur . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Ludhiana . .	2,838 0 0	180 0 0	...	50 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Ferozepore . .	54,600 0 0	448 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Mooltan . .	4,805 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Jhang . .	24,009 0 0	425 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Montgomery . .	7,085 0 0	4,767 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Lahore . .	76,120 0 0	5,086 0 0	...	...	...	567	14,111 10 9	539	...	1,134 0 0	539
17. Amritsar . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Gurdaspur . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Sialkot . .	14,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Gujrat . .	29,540 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Gujranwala . .	17,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Shahpur . .	19,975 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Jhelum . .	44,507 0 0	26,089 6 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Rawalpindi . .	40,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mds. 148½	800 0 0	2,407
25. Hazara . .	1,370 0 0	830 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Peshawar . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. Kohat . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Bannu . .	14,526 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Dera Ismail Khan.	8,700 0 0	...	...	...	...	35	970 0 0	35	Mds. 66	330 0 0	38
30. Dera Ghazi Khan.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Muzaffargarh . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	5,44,490 6 0	1,98,773 6 6	2,766 8 0	80 0 0	...	...	15,081 10 9	...	...	2,264 0 0	...

OBJECTIV—concluded.					OBJECT V.				
DISTRICT.	F—Other Expenditure under heading "Object IV".				(a) Office and Contingent Expenditure.	(b) Printing.	(c) Miscellaneous.	Total.	
	Nature of Expenditure.	Period of Expenditure.	Amount of Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.					
1. Hissar	(1) Valedictory doles. (2) Subscription to a Gausala.		R a. p. (1) 699 0 9 (2) 293 0 0	1,201	R a. p. 1,114 14 5	R a. p. 401 6 0	R a. p. ...	R a. p. 1,816 4 5	
2. Rohtak	213 14 6	7 4 0	...	221 2 6	
3. Gurgaon	
4. Delhi	1,466 4 10	207 7 6	...	1,673 12 4	
5. Karnal	74 7 5	64 3 0	427 6 2	566 0 7	
6. Umballa	Contribution towards the spinning work.	1-4-97 to 17-7-97	2,000 0 0	Daily average. 168	3 0 0	1 0 0	11 5 0	15 5 0	
7. Simla	
8. Kangra	0 8 0	0 8 0	
9. Hoshiarpur	
10. Jullundur	
11. Ludhiana	310 11 6	25 6 0	...	336 1 6	
12. Ferozepore	Excavation of tanks, wells, construction of Dharmshalas and the like.	1-12-96 to 31-3-97	40,882 0 0	82,405	131 3 3	...	—	131 3 3	
13. Mooltan	
14. Jhang	1 2 0	...	...	1 2 0	
15. Montgomery	
16. Lahore	Valedictory doles.	..	332 0 0	736	304 0 9	...	...	304 0 9
17. Amritsar	1,211 12 9	24 0 0	...	1,235 12 9	
18. Gurdaspur	
19. Sialkot	
20. Gujrat	475 3 11	160 5 0	193 4 5	828 13 4	
21. Gujranwala	130 2 3	84 10 0	...	214 12 3	
22. Shahpur	43 5 0	3 0 0	...	46 5 0	
23. Jhelum	374 5 9	...	...	374 5 9	
24. Rawalpindi	374 6 3	85 4 0	...	459 10 3	
25. Hazara	
26. Peshawar	1,392 7 9	139 11 0	...	1,532 2 9	
27. Kohat	
28. Bannu	
29. Dera Ismail Khan	
30. Dera Ghazi Khan	
31. Muzaffargarh	1 1 0	...	...	1 1 0	
TOTAL	44,206 1 3	...	7,922 7 4	1,203 8 6	632 7 7	9,758 7 5	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER OBJECT IV								8,33,239 8 3	
TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS								10,69,912 10 0	
AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR WHICH STATISTICS WERE NOT KEPT								35,770 4 6	
GRAND TOTAL								10,95,682 14 6	

Punjab Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PUNJAB.

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening Balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Hissar . . . . .	...	17,306 8 7	2,52,000 0 0	4,452 12 6	2,73,759 5 1
2	Rohtak . . . . .	...	4,172 9 6	41,000 0 0	...	45,172 9 6
3	Gurgaon . . . . .	...	3,801 6 0	8,500 0 0	...	12,301 6 0
4	Delhi . . . . .	...	18,168 0 0	50,760 0 0	...	68,928 0 0
5	Karnal . . . . .	...	10,980 10 0	49,245 0 0	76 10 2	60,302 4 2
6	Umballa . . . . .	...	5,017 4 0	15,000 0 0	...	20,017 4 0
7	Simla . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...
8	Kangra . . . . .	...	0 8 0	...	...	0 8 0
9	Hoshiarpur . . . . .	...	...	5,000 0 0	...	5,000 0 0
10	Jullunder . . . . .	...	2,078 15 6	...	32 4 11	2,111 4 5
11	Ludhiana . . . . .	...	10,147 8 0	39,000 0 0	1,235 13 9	50,383 5 9
12	Ferozepore . . . . .	...	52,342 13 3	71,000 0 0	...	1,23,342 13 3
13	Mooltan . . . . .	...	5,200 0 0	5,610 11 1	...	10,810 11 1
14	Jhang . . . . .	...	792 10 0	24,435 2 0	...	25,227 12 0
15	Montgomery . . . . .	...	2,475 0 0	20,000 0 0	...	22,475 0 0
16	Lahore . . . . .	...	15,553 3 0	1,16,260 0 0	7,084 2 6	1,38,897 5 6
17	Amritsar . . . . .	...	8,497 3 3	20,000 0 0	7,360 12 9	35,858 0 0
18	Gurdaspur	1,399 14 7	2,873 8 0	...	...	4,273 6 7
19	Sialkot . . . . .	...	865 0 0	14,000 0 0	...	14,865 0 0
20	Gujrat . . . . .	...	3,817 0 0	45,000 0 0	4,291 15 9	53,108 15 9
21	Gujranwalla . . . . .	...	214 12 3	17,000 0 0	...	17,214 12 3
22	Shahpur . . . . .	...	4,587 12 6	20,000 0 0	...	24,587 12 6
23	Jhelum . . . . .	...	8,165 0 6	71,000 0 0	12,880 2 9	92,045 3 3
24	Rawal Pindi . . . . .	...	10,918 6 0	40,000 0 0	4,239 10 4	55,158 0 4
25	Hazara . . . . .	...	2,611 5 0	...	...	2,611 5 0
26	Peshawar . . . . .	...	19,534 15 9	...	...	19,534 15 9
27	Kohat . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...
28	Bannu . . . . .	...	5,025 15 3	10,000 0 0	...	15,025 15 3
29	Dera Ismail Khan . . . . .	...	4,559 0 0	10,000 0 0	...	14,559 0 0
30	Dera Ghazi Khan . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...
31	Muzaffargarh . . . . .	...	1,528 1 6	...	...	1,528 1 6
		GRAND TOTAL				10,96,632 14 6

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PUNJAB.

Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

PAYMENTS.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balances.	TOTAL.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1 Hissar . .	1,476 2 10	2 0 0	28,331 12 0	2,36,367 0 9	1,816 4 5	2,67,993 4 0	5,766 1 1	2,73,759 5 1
2 Rohtak . .		12 9 0	678 4 8	44,090 8 0	221 2 6	45,002 8 2	170 1 4	45,172 9 6
3 Gurgaon	6,272 1 8	6,000 0 0	...	12,272 1 8	29 4 4	12,301 6 0
4 Delhi . .	600 0 0	...	53,767 1 0	4,509 6 0	1,673 12 4	60,550 3 4	8,377 12 8	68,928 0 0
5 Karnal	8 0 0	5,338 4 8	49,245 0 0	566 0 7	55,157 5 3	5,144 14 11	60,302 4 2
6 Umballa	11,531 9 0	7,000 0 0	15 5 0	18,546 14 0	1,470 6 0	20,017 4 0
7 Simla
8 Kangra	0 8 0	0 8 0	...	0 8 0
9 Hoshiarpur	5,000 0 0	...	5,000 0 0	...	5,000 0 0
10 Jullunder	2,085 9 7	...	...	2,085 9 7	25 10 10	2,111 4 5
11 Ludhiana	5 0 0	8,435 12 3	18,152 0 0	336 1 6	26,928 13 9	23,454 8 0	50,383 5 9
12 Ferozepore	760 0 0	8,136 12 0	95,930 0 6	130 0 3	1,04,956 12 9	18,386 0 6	1,23,342 13 3
13 Mooltan	6,005 11 1	4,805 0 0	...	10,810 11 1	...	10,810 11 1
14 Jhang	24,434 0 0	1 2 0	24,435 2 0	792 10 0	25,227 12 0
15 Montgomery	14 0 0	11,852 0 0	...	11,866 0 0	10,609 0 0	22,475 0 0
16 Lahore . .	1,648 7 3	100 0 0	32,464 0 9	96,783 10 9	304 0 9	1,31,300 3 6	7,597 2 0	1,38,897 5 6
17 Amritsur	21 0 0	18,775 9 0	12,259 11 3	1,235 12 9	32,292 1 0	3,565 15 0	35,858 0 0
18 Gurdaspur	1,656 7 3	500 0 0	...	2,156 7 3	2,116 15 4	4,273 6 7
19 Sialkot	862 11 3	14,000 0 0	...	14,862 11 3	2 4 9	14,865 0 0
20 Gujrat . .	4,838 6 6	...	1,913 7 5	29,540 0 0	828 13 4	37,120 11 3	15,988 4 6	53,108 15 9
21 Gujranwalla	17,000 0 0	214 12 3	17,214 12 3	...	17,214 12 3
22 Shahpur	4,566 3 6	19,975 0 0	46 5 0	24,587 8 6	0 4 0	24,587 12 6
23 Jhelum	20,936 4 4	70,596 6 6	374 5 9	91,907 0 7	138 2 8	92,045 3 3
24 Rawal Pindi	6,816 5 9	40,800 0 0	459 10 3	48,076 0 0	7,082 0 4	55,158 0 4
25 Hazara	411 5 0	2,200 0 0	...	2,611 5 0	...	2,611 5 0
26 Peshawar	18,002 13 0	...	1,532 2 9	19,534 15 9	...	19,534 15 9
27 Kohat
28 Bannu	14,816 0 0	...	14,816 0 0	209 15 3	15,025 15 3
29 Dera Ismail Khan	10,000 0 0	...	10,000 0 0	4,559 0 0	14,559 0 0
30 Dera Ghazi Khan
31 Muzaffargarh	21 0 0	275 13 6	...	1 1 0	297 14 6	1,230 3 0	1,528 1 6

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PUNJAB.

Final Balance Sheet.

mts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
1897—	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
• • •	53,714 15 6	1. Under Object I • • •	• • •
• • •	107 0 1	2. Do. II • • •	• • •
• • •	1,16,716 8 6	3. Do. III • • •	• • •
• • •	300 0 0	4. Do. IV • • •	• • •
• • •		5. Miscellaneous • • •	• • •
• • •		Total expenditure • • •	• • •
• • •		Returned to Central Committee • • •	• • •
• • •		Closing Balances—	• • •
• • •		(a) With Provincial Committee • • •	29,490 0 1
• • •		(b) With District Committees • • •	26,510 8 0
• • •		TOTAL R • • •	1,75,140 8 1

D. P. MASSON,

Joint Honorary Secretary,

Punjab Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

9 41 289,96	GRAND TOTAL	8,563 0 7 929 9 0 2,37,277 14 8 8,35,855 11 9 9,757 4 5 10,92,383 8 5 1,16,716 8 6 12,09,100 0	TOTAL R
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CENTRAL INDIA PROVINCIAL REPORT.

No. 1557 of 1898.

FROM

LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. W. K. BARR, C.S.I.,
Agent to the Governor General in Central India,

TO

THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY,
 CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, Calcutta.

Dated Indore Residency, the 2nd March 1898.

SIR,

In submitting, for the information of the Central Committee Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, the final accounts of the Fund disbursed under the general supervision of the Provincial Committee for Central India, of which I have the honour of being President, made up to the 31st January 1898, I desire to record on behalf of my Committee our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the valuable aid afforded to the famine stricken people of the States of Central India by the allotments made from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund for the alleviation of distress.

The accounts, as now finally adjusted, show that the following sums have been received from your Committee.

<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Agency to which paid.</i>
2,13,000 . . .	Baghelkand.
1,12,000 . . .	Bundelkhand.
25,000 . . .	Gwalior.

Total from Indian
 Famine Charitable
 Relief Fund R 3,50,000

In addition, we have received from local subscription R55,321-10-3, making a grand total of R4,05,321-10-3. Of this amount the following sums have been disbursed under the four objects of the Funds:—

					R	a.	p.
In Bundelkhand	Object No. I	.	.	.	16,820	10	6
Do.	do " II	.	.	.	5,312	0	6
Do.	do. " III	.	.	.	5,225	14	3
Do.	do. " IV	.	.	.	91,574	11	3
In Baghelkhand	do. " I	.	.	.	1,582	12	8
Do.	do. " II	.	.	.	12	1	3
Do.	do. " III	.	.	.	29,504	13	0
Do.	do. " IV	.	.	.	1,97,910	5	10
In Gwalior	do. " I	.	.	.	1,388	13	9
Do.	do. " II	.	.	.	2,000	0	0
Do.	do. " III	.	.	.	.....
Do.	do. " IV	.	.	.	37,075	5	9
In Bhopal	do. " I	.	.	.	1,151	9	2
Do.	do. " II	.	.	.	56	0	11
Do.	do. " III	.	.	.	76	0	8
Do.	do. " IV	.	.	.	803	8	3
In Bhopawar	do. " I	.	.	.	200	0	0
Do.	do. " II	.	.	.	.....
Do.	do. " III	.	.	.	.....
Do.	do. " IV	.	.	.	.....

In addition to the expenditure under these four heads my Committee has allotted Rs.4,000 for the support of orphanages in Central India; *viz.*—

	R
Canadian Mission Orphanage, Central India	1,000
Roman Catholic Mission Orphanage, Central India	1,000
Lady Filose's Orphanage, Gwalior	2,000

The balance in hand in the different Agencies of Central India on the 31st January 1898 was Rs.12,043-1-0; *viz.*—

	R	a.	p.
* This amount has been placed at the disposal of Surgeon-Lieutenant Colonel Crofts, Medical Officer to His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, for the purchase of blankets, and for other expenditure under Object III. The full accounts have not yet been received, but will be forwarded.			
Indore	1,047	11	6
* Gwalior	10,648	1	3
Bundelkhand	346	4	9
Baghelkhand . . . . .	.....	
Bhopal . . . . .	.....	
TOTAL	Rs.12,042	1	6

The whole of this balance will be expended on one or other of the objects of the Fund during the course of the next month.

In order to give to your Committee some idea of the extent of the famine and scarcity in Central India, I attach printed copies of reports from the Political Agents in Bundelkhand, Baghelkhand, and the Director of Land Records, Gwalior State. In each report paragraphs relating to the administration of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund are marked in red ink on the margin.

It will be seen that, famine generally of an intense character, more particularly in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Agencies and in the Northern and Eastern Districts of the Gwalior State, affected an area of 36,625 square miles containing a population of 51,41,000, and that of this population, according to such statistics as I have been able to collect from Native States, 32,00,000 persons (reduced to units of one day) were relieved on works during a period of three months, and there was a total, in Poor-houses, of 8,65,704 persons. I trust that the returns which have, from time to time, been forwarded to your Committee will be considered satisfactory proof of the earnest desire of the Provincial Committee and of the disbursing officers serving under my orders to give full effect to the intentions of the promoters of, and subscribers to, the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund.

In conclusion, I would desire in the most emphatic manner to assure you, not only of the immense amount of good done by the Charitable Fund to the sufferers from famine in the Native States, of Central India, but of the genuine and spontaneous expressions of gratitude of the people to whom the vast benefits of the Funds were extended.

In my official report to the Government of India I have dwelt upon the difficulty experienced at the outset of the period of famine in Central India in inducing the people to believe that adequate relief would really be afforded to them by the establishment of relief works and Poor-houses in the States of which they were the subjects. On no previous occasion of the occurrence of famine or scarcity had any attempt been made to afford relief on organised systems such as were adopted during the years 1896-97 in Native States on principles assimilating those in vogue in British India. It was the distrust, (engendered by previous experience) in the desire, or I would say, the power of Native Rulers to provide organised relief, that led to the emigration of thousands of Native States' subjects to British India as soon as famine declared itself; and it was only when these wanderers were brought back in some cases forcibly, from Relief Camps and Poor-houses in British territory, that the fact was realised that, on this occasion of famine and distress, they could and did obtain in their own States and in the immediate vicinity of their homes, relief sufficient for their wants. But if incredulity in the benevolence and good intentions of their Rulers was a prominent feature in the pre-conceived ideas of the poor people in the matter of State relief, far greater was their surprise and their gratitude when they learnt, by experience, that such relief was not only real, but easily obtained. The solace and comfort brought to hundreds of thousands of Native States'

subjects by the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, as a supplement to the assistance afforded by State relief works and Poor-houses came to them as a crowning mercy.

It is impossible to exaggerate the benefits which this Fund has given in Central India, or the heart-felt gratitude it has evoked from perhaps the most patient, long suffering, and trustful of God's creatures.

I have lately concluded a long tour through those districts of Central India, including the whole of the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Agencies, and delightful as it was to me, after the anxieties and horrors of the past year, to visit villages full of healthy and vigorous people, and to see for myself the enormous and almost abnormal area of cultivated land smiling again under its accustomed burden of green fields and waving corn giving the surest proof of the efficacy of State relief and of the successful efforts of the Rulers of those States to combat the gaunt spectre of famine which has now, I trust, been finally laid, it was still more refreshing to hear from the people themselves, their simple, but none the less touching acknowledgments of the bountiful charity they had received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, the source of which they ascribed to the "Sahibs of England."

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

D. W. K. BARR,

*Agent to the Governor-General
in Central India.*

From the Political Agent in Bundelkhand, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Bundelkhand Agency, Indore,—No. 513-1., dated the 10th August 1897. (Despatched on the 14th.)

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Agent, Governor-General, a report on the famine in the Bundelkhand Agency and the measures taken to relieve distress. A number of reports on the various States have been submitted from time to time; but these referred to different States and different periods, and hitherto no attempt has been made to place on record an account of the difficulties experienced and the measures taken to meet them as a whole. I have so acutely felt the absence of any detailed reports on past famines in the Agency that at the risk of making this report tediously long I have thought it desirable to collect together all the information that has been supplied by the States, as well as to record such observations as experience leads me to believe will be of use in case of another famine.

PART I.

PREVIOUS SEASONS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

3. The people could not well have been in a worse condition than they were to make a good fight against the present famine. Bundelkhand is naturally a poor country, and it has been through a cycle of bad seasons.

The following extracts from the Annual Reports of the Agency show that during the last ten years there have been eight in which the crops have been damaged:—

1887-88.—“The rainfall for the year amounted to 53·17 inches. There was a good deal of irregularity in its distribution as regards localities, and complaints of an excess or deficiency at critical times in some places; the kharif suffered accordingly, and a deficient crop was reported in some States. Hailstorms, as usual, caused some damage, but the only part in which this occurred to any noteworthy extent was in the Gaurihar Jagir, where a storm of unusual violence was reported at the time of the harvest.

1888-89.—The rainfall of the year was excessive, amounting to 67·86 inches, or about 22 inches above the average. It was very unfavourably distributed, and the kharif suffered severely, being in places almost destroyed by excess of moisture in the early monsoon. Its cessation again was abrupt and early, very injuriously affecting the first rabi operations. Many fields in consequence could not be properly prepared for sowing, while in others the seed failed to germinate, or the crops withered while still young.

Charkhari, Baoni, Beri and Gaurihar were the States that suffered most.

1889-90.—The rain ceased rather early, and none fell after the beginning of October 1889, there being a complete failure of the cold weather rain, which is so valuable to the rabi crops, and these consequently enjoyed less favourable conditions than the kharif. In the end of January 1890 sharp frosts set in, which did some injury.

1890-91.—The mohwa crop, an auxiliary food-supply of substantial value in this country, failed almost entirely.

1893-94.—The later rain, however, did considerable damage to the jowari. In the case of the spring crops also hopes of an exceptionally good return were raised only to be disappointed. The wheat crop suffered terribly from blight.

1894-95.—Serious damage was done to all the crops of the autumn harvest, while the wheat has also failed, in some parts entirely and in other parts partially. Linseed, which is a crop upon which the cultivator relies as a means of paying his revenue, has been an absolute failure.

1895-96.—The autumn harvest was in most parts damaged. The early cessation of the rains left much of the ground that had been intended for the spring crop too hard to plough, and this, together with an almost entire absence of the winter rains, caused a vast amount of damage to the spring crop. It may be said that gram is the only crop grown on unirrigated ground that has not been a complete failure.”

4. The result of this succession of bad seasons, followed in some parts by actual famine during 1896, has been that the States have become impoverished, the Bankers' powers of giving help to the people have been reduced, and the people themselves have needed more assistance than usual. During this period the Agency also suffered from a serious outbreak of dacoity, in which a large number of village bankers lost their capital. During the years 1890, 1891, 1892 dacoits carried off property valued at over three lakhs and fifteen thousand rupees, nearly the whole of which must have come from the pockets of money-lenders and others upon whom the cultivators rely for assistance.

The returns given at Appendix I show how insufficient has been the produce of the country for its own needs during the last few years. During the four years 1889—92 the exports of food-grains from the Sutna Station exceeded the imports by 3,981 tons, while during the four years 1893—96 the import of food-grains exceeded the exports by 56,015 tons. The returns for the stations on the Indian Midland Railway between the Betwa and the Ken rivers, excluding the Out-Agency at Rath, which does not to any practical extent serve the States of this Agency, show that during 1889—92 the import of food-grains exceeded the export by 1,584 tons, and that in the following four years the imports exceeded the exports by 65,074 tons. In addition to this, large quantities of food-grains were brought in from the Central Provinces by bullocks and carts.

5. There is a large number of weavers in Bundelkhand, but many of these have been thrown out of employment by the introduction of machine-made cloth. In the hilly parts of the Agency there used to be a large and prosperous iron trade, but this too has been much depressed by imported iron.

6. The only thing that has saved the Agency from the worst horrors of famine is the railway to Sutna and the Jhansi-Manikpur Branch of the Indian Midland Railway, which was built as a protective work. Without the railways it would have been impossible, I believe, to get food to the people. During the last two years sufficient fodder could not have been found for transport animals, and in the two preceding years the excessive rain made all unmetalled roads quite unsuited for heavy traffic during the whole of the cold weather.

7. The succession of bad seasons had on more than one occasion caused apprehension of immediate famine, and the Agent, Governor-General, had called on the Political Agent to submit a scheme of relief works for each State. My predecessor did all he could to prepare a scheme, and I made similar efforts; but the result was that when famine became an established fact the schemes on record consisted of proposals to make a few new roads and to collect metal on existing roads. Even if all these proposals could have been carried out, they would have gone a very small way towards meeting the requirements of a famine. As a matter of fact it has not been found possible to carry them all out: in the first place, in a hilly country, such as Bundelkhand, professional advice is an absolute necessity in laying out a road, unless the cost is to be prohibitive; and, in the second place, the consent of the various owners of the land has to be obtained, and this is a difficult task. The ordinary rule is that each State pays for the portion of a road which lies in its territory, consequently each State wishes to have the road so aligned that it may pass through as little of its territory as possible, while it serves as many of its villages as possible.

8. The individual States are not rich enough to retain the services of an Engineer and they will not combine to have a common Engineer: some two or three years ago I tried to persuade several of the Chiefs to seriously consider the advantage that they would gain if, by paying a subscription towards the pay of an Engineer, they could have a call on his services; but I did not at the time press the scheme, as I could find no one Chief who viewed it with any favour. In spite of the apprehensions caused by succeeding bad years, and frequent exhortations to the States to prepare schemes of Famine Relief Works, when the famine came no schemes were ready to hand, and the want of these has done much to add to the difficulty of supervising the measures taken by the States. It may be accepted as a fact proved by experience that no scheme of any practical value for dealing with famine will ever be drawn up by the unaided efforts of the States and the Political Agent. As I have shown in a subsequent part of this report, the services of an Engineer are essential.

NOTICE OF EACH STATE (EXTRACTS).

ORCHHA.

28. His Highness the Maharaja of Orchha was the first Chief in the Agency to realise that the failure of the rains required special action on the part of the Darbar. On the 14th of October the Darbar issued a detailed Rubkar to all Tehsildars impressing upon them the need for losing no opportunity of increasing the area under irrigation, and promising most generous terms to cultivators, who, by their own exertions, should increase the area under irrigated crops. The State is well provided with lakes and wells, and the most has been made of these. Owing to the presence of these and to a plentiful supply of mohwa trees, which gave a very good yield, the State had got over the worst of its difficulties by the time of the rabi harvest. During February three hundred and ninety-five thousand persons were relieved for one day, and during March the number rose to four hundred and fifty-eight thousand. In no other month did the numbers reach three hundred thousand. I marched across the southern portion of the State in January and found the people in good condition, except in one village where the Darbar Officer had just arrived to open a relief work. In December I made one march in the northern part of the State and found no distress. I was unfortunately obliged to abandon this tour,

* * * *

Owing to the large irrigated area the Darbar has not had such a difficult task as some of its neighbours, but the numbers relieved show that foresight and organisation were necessary, and the Darbar is, in my opinion, entitled to great credit for the success that has attended its measures for the relief of the people. It is only fair to His Highness to say that no assistance has at any time been required from the Agency.

DATIA.

29. The Datia State has a population of 185,000. I inspected a large area of the State in December. Mr. Forbes inspected the whole State in February-March, he a second time inspected a portion of it in May, and Captain Ewbank inspected the Nadigaon Pergunnah, where distress was expected to be most severe in June. In every case the people have been found to be in good condition. A special Famine Department has been founded, generous remissions of revenue have been made, good terms have been offered to those wanting loans and famine matters generally have received the Darbar's best attention. Very few detailed returns have been received from the Darbar of the work done up to the end of June, and the final poor-house returns have not been received. For statistical purposes this is to be regretted, but the matter is not, I think, of great importance. The Darbar has asked for no financial aid from the Agency. It is known that famine has been general in all the districts surrounding the State, and that whatever remissness there may have been in submitting returns, there has been no deficiency of relief. I consider that the Darbar deserves credit for its arrangements.

SAMTHAR.

30. The population of the Samthar State is 40,000. The State is almost entirely composed of black soil; liberal advances were given early during the rains of 1896 so that the people got in their crops without delay and suffered little on account of the early cessation of the rains as far as the kharif harvest was concerned. His Highness the Raja, who has taken a great interest in the work, at first proposed to rely entirely on village relief works; but subsequently he came to the conclusion that a few large works could be better supervised. * * * *

PANNA.

31. The Panna State covers an area of 2,500 square miles, and contains a population of 240,000. It is divided into eleven tehsils, several of which are separated from the main portion of the State. During the famine of 1896 I was obliged to report most-unfavourably on the arrangements made by the Darbar: from what I saw in the State up to the end of February I hoped that the Darbar was determined to earn a better reputation this year; but I regret to say that further information shows that the people must have been in many cases neglected.

Mr. Barnes' recorded opinion regarding this portion of the State is that no real effort was being made to cope with the distress. Mr. Barnes then toured through the Baxwaho Pergunnah, and, on the whole, his report on the relief measures is favourable. He then marched across the Central Provinces to the Semaria Pergunnah and inspected the triangular tract south of Semaria and between the river and the hills. He found that the people were in a very bad condition indeed, that a number of deaths had occurred from starvation; that a number of persons had emigrated; that only the strong were employed on the works and, generally, that the relief afforded was insufficient. At the same time he reported that if the orders of the Darbar, which were clear, had been carried out, the people could never have reached such a condition.

CHARKHARI.

32. The Charkhari State is divided into four pergunnahs: Bawan Chaurassi containing the city of Charkhari, Satwara, on the borders of Hamirpur and Banda Districts, Esanaggar, south of Nowgong, and Ranipur, which only has a population of some 3,000 persons. The Bawan Chaurassi Pergunnah was inspected in April by Mr. Forbes, and the people were found to be in good condition; a large majority of those in need of relief come to the works at the town of Charkhari, and these I have seen on several occasions. The only official intimation received of residents of this pergunnah going to relief works in British India was when a work in the Hamirpur District approached within a few hundred yards of the Charkhari City. This pergunnah being close to the capital and under the personal observation of His Highness the Maharaja and the highest officials of the State, was well looked after; the workers were kept in good condition, the paupers were most comfortably housed and attended by a native doctor and the cultivators will have no difficulty in obtaining any seed and food advances that they may require. * * *

We found that the improvements noticed by Mr. Forbes had been maintained; all knew where the works and poor-houses were, and none complained that they had been refused relief. By the time of our last inspection we had been given a large grant from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund; we were consequently able to give clothes to hundreds that were in rags, money doles to the old and weak, cash to weavers to start their trade and money to cultivators to buy their bullocks. The pergunnah had suffered severely from cattle disease and successive failure of the crops. Some 400 cultivators were selected for grants from the Fund, and the agreement made with His Highness the Maharaja was that if this amount of assistance was given from the Fund, he would supply all the other bullocks that were required, irrespective of the security which could be given by those in want of plough-cattle. The Tehsildar had not, I found, made out any lists of those in need of cattle, but he repaired the omission at an early date, and the Maharaja lost no time in issuing the necessary orders. As it seemed possible that during the rains there might be a deficiency in the food-stocks in this pergunnah, I suggested to His Highness that he should place at three places in the pergunnah Rs. 3,000 worth of grain that could be drawn upon for food-supplies, if necessary, and that could be used as seed advances in the event of it not being required for food. The suggestion has, I am informed, been acted upon.

Though the relief measures have at times fallen short of the requirements of the Satwara and Esanaggar Pergunnahs, there can be no doubt that His Highness the Maharaja has done his best to carry out his duty. The deficiencies reported occurred while His Highness was away in Calcutta, where he went to dispose of some of his jewels, in order to find money for relief works. His action in thus setting an example to his brother Chiefs has already been noted with approval by the Government of India. His Highness has always appeared most grateful for the assistance that he has received from the tours of the officers on famine duty, and he has always taken advantage of the information received from them; he is the real, as well as the nominal, head of the State, and it has been a pleasure to work with a Chief who takes such an interest in the affairs of the State, and who understands the difference between fault-finding and friendly advice.

AJAIGARH.

33. The Ajaigarh State has a population of 91,000 persons. It has a very small irrigated area, but in two pergunnahs of the State mohwa trees are plentiful. Excepting the pergunnah of Mehra Bangla, which has a population of less than 3,000, the State is divided into the four pergunnahs of Zerghati, Barwara, Mahewa and Ganj. The Zerghati Pergunnah was inspected by me in company with Colonel Thornton in February; it was again inspected in April by Captain Ewbank, and again in the latter half of May by Captain Ewbank and myself. On each occasion the people were found to be in good condition.

The Barwara Tehsil was inspected by me in March, and by Captain Ewbank in the end of April. On both of these occasions the people were found in good condition. On the 17th July Captain Ewbank and I visited this tehsil, and I regret to have to say that the people were suffering very great distress. The people in the poor-house had been grossly neglected and there were many not in the poor-house who ought to have been there. These remarks mostly apply to the villages immediately round the tehsil. I found that the Tehsildar had not inspected any of his villages himself, neither had he had them inspected by his subordinates; he had not even distributed the amount of money that had been sent to him by the Darbar for Takavi advances; he had, however, I believe, submitted accounts to the Darbar showing that the inmates of the poor-house had been receiving full rations. The Nazim at once came to put things right; he suspended the Tehsildar and arranged to put another man in charge of the poor-house. At the same time I wrote telling His Highness the Maharaja of the condition of his people, and His Highness at once showed his displeasure by having the Tehsildar and the officer in charge of the poor-house marched off to Ajaigarh in custody. Arrangements were made to repair the omissions of the Tehsildar, and I have no doubt that when Captain Colvin arrives at Barewara, as he will shortly do, he will find that distress has been relieved.

BIJAWAR.

34. The affairs of the Bijawar State have lately been so fully before the Agent to the Governor-General and the Government of India that no detailed notice is here required. Briefly, the chief facts are as below:—In December as it was known that the State was without funds, a loan of Rs. 70,000 was made by Government. When I visited the State at the end of January, I found the people in the greatest distress, and I was informed that none of the loan had been spent. His Highness was then induced to apply for the services of an officer to manage his relief measures, and the services of Lalla Sheo Nath were placed at his disposal on the condition that all orders should issue through him, and that all information should be sent to him. It was found that these conditions were most flagrantly broken; that the State accounts were not produced, and that no intelligible information was obtainable in the Darbar Office. At the same time it was clear that the State could not carry on without a further loan. It was then decided that His

Highness the Maharaja should grant full powers to his Dewan Rao Bankaju, but he also failed to submit accounts, and, it is stated, because he wished to come to the Agency with the State accounts, he was summarily dismissed by the Maharaja. It was clear that Government could not continue indefinitely to pour money into a State which either would not or could not submit any accounts, and which did all it could to thwart the officer sent for the purpose of relieving distress. A decision had to be arrived at as to whether power should be left with the Chief and his people left to starve or whether the Government should nominate a Dewan, provide such funds as appeared to be necessary and save the people. The latter alternative was chosen.

BAONI.

35. The Baoni State has a population of 18,000. It has no well or tank irrigation and only a small area is irrigated by the Betwa Canal. The distributary known as the Baghi Minor was made many years ago, and this proved of great value during the current year. Three new minors were made as relief works last year, but owing to their not being quite complete as regards their connection with the canal, and later on owing to a short supply of water in the river, full value was not obtained from them. There is practically no mohwa in Baoni. The greater portion of the State was inspected in the month of March by Mr. Barnes and myself. It was then found that a considerable number of the people had left the State either in search of harvest work, or to join the relief works in the British districts that surround the State. Arrangements were at once made for funds to meet the needs of the people which were greater than had been expected, with the result that all the people shortly returned to their homes.

CHATTARPUR.

36. The Chattarpur State has a population of 170,000; there is irrigation in about three-quarters of the State, and it has many tracts in which mohwa trees abound. The State is divided into the four tehsils of Chattarpur, Rajnagar, Lauri, and Deora. The Chattarpur Tehsil runs up to the borders of the cantonment, and it has consequently been frequently inspected. It is the only portion of the State in which I have found any severe distress. At Mau, close to the cantonment, there was a large relief work on which the people were in a bad condition. * * * *

His Highness the Maharaja has not stinted money, and the relief measures have been on the whole intelligently organized by the Dewan.

SARILA.

37. Sarila is a small but rich State surrounded by the Hamirpur District. As it nearly all consists of black soil, but it is mostly low-lying it has not suffered as much as other tracts where black soil is common. The people are better off than in any part of Bundelkhand I know, and consequently they are better able to stand the strain of famine.

DHURWAI, BIJNA, AND BANKA PAHARI.

38. These are three small and impoverished jagirs on the borders of the Jhansi District. Neither of them has any money. In Bijna the Jagirdar could not be trusted with a loan for relief purposes, as he had converted to his own use a loan made to him in 1896; a loan for relief purposes could not be made to the Jagirdar of Dhurwai because of family dissensions, owing to which no particular work could ever have been agreed upon by the sharers of the Jagir who would, of course, have been responsible for the money. Banka Pahari is so poor and insignificant that he could scarcely be expected to do anything. Finally, it was decided, with the sanction of the Government of the North-Western Provinces, that the people of these jagirs should be told that they would be relieved in the Jhansi District. * * * *

Assistance was also given to the cultivators of these jagirs from the Indian Famine Fund.

TORI FATEHPUR.

39. This small jagir is almost surrounded by the Jhansi District. The Jagirdar reported that a fourteen-anna rabi crop had been obtained and the returns now submitted show that only 1'21 of the population were employed on relief works for a period of 100 days. The average cost per head per day is said to have been something over 15 piee. The returns must be entirely wrong. I have not heard of any of the Tori subjects migrating to the works or poor-houses in British territory, so it seems fair to conclude that the Jagirdar does not do himself justice in the returns that he submits.

JIGNI.

40. This small jagir has a population of 3,877 persons. It has no irrigation and no mohwa. It was first inspected thoroughly by Mr. Barnes in March, when he visited every village of the jagir. He reported that the people were in good condition, but evidently without resources, and that good care was taken of those in the poor-house. In the middle of June Captain Ewbank again inspected the jagir and reported that the people were in better condition than he had seen elsewhere. The jagir is under the management of the Rani, during the minority of the Jagirdar, and it is much to her credit that, though she is a "purdah-nashin" lady she often went to inspect the workers and see after their comfort.

LUGHASSI.

41. Lughassi is a small jagir near the cantonment of Nowgong having a population of 6,700. It has been a constant source of trouble since scarcity began. The Jagirdar has no respectable official who has any power to act, and he himself is a slave to drugs. Lughassi is the only portion of the Agency where nothing has at any time been done for the people, except under absolute compulsion from the Agency.

The emigrants were given bullocks and road expenses from the Indian Famine Fund, and the Maharaja of Ajaigarh promised to give them good land, seed and food.

A short time ago when trouble was again experienced in getting the paupers regularly fed, the Lady Missionaries of the American Mission at Nowgong consulted me as to how they could best spend some money that had been sent to them for distribution. I suggested that they should take over the relief of those in the poor-house at Lughassi, which they were kind enough to do. Captain Ewbank went out with them to put the system of relief on a business footing and now the Agency is relieved of further anxiety as far as this jagir is concerned.

BERI.

42. Beri is a small jagir on the banks of the Betwa, containing a population of 5,000 persons. It has only been visited by Mr. Barnes in March, as it is separated from the rest of the Agency, and the Jagirdar is an intelligent young man who appeared both willing and able to do all that was required for his people.

ALIPURA.

43. Alipura is a small jagir near Nowgong having a population of 15,000. It has suffered comparatively little. The irrigated area is about 13 per cent. of the cultivable area. Several villages were fortunate enough to catch a heavy shower in the autumn, and mohwa is plentiful. Besides this the cantonment and railway afford means of earning a livelihood.

GAURIHAR.

44. The population of the jagir is 10,000. It has no irrigation and a small quantity of mohwa. In February I paid an unexpected visit to the town of Gaurihar and found all the people looking well; there was work in active progress on a bandh, the few people in the poor-house were all cared for, and the Jagirdar was away inspecting a relief work at some distance from the town.

GARRAULI.

45. Garrauli is a small jagir having a population of 5,500. So scattered it is that scarcely any one village of the jagir touches another village of the jagir.

In some of the villages of the jagir there is a large irrigated area and others are close to the cantonments; but for this it would probably have been necessary to find employment for a large proportion of the population.

NAYAGAON REBAI.

46. Nayagaon Rebai is a small jagir with a population of only some 3,500. Part of it is close to Nowgong and part is surrounded by the Hamirpur District. The Jagirdar has reported from time to time that all distress was being relieved. Scarcely any of her subjects have come to the Nowgong poor-house, and I have not heard of any coming to the relief works in Hamirpur. The villages that I have seen have been well looked after.

BILHERI.

47. The Muafidar of Bilheri holds a few villages round the cantonment of Nowgong has maintained 4.77 per cent. of the population for a period of 100 days, and he has granted gratuitous relief to 3 per cent. He has been granted a loan to assist him. It will be recovered by withholding payments due to him from Government.

The American Mission has lately given the Muafidar much help by taking over the care of his paupers.

ALAMPUR.

48. The Alampur Pergunnah is an outlying district of the Indore State containing 27 villages.

The administration of famine measures in this pergunnah cannot be considered creditable to the government of His Highness the Maharaja Holkar.

The pergunnah was once more inspected by Captain Ewbank at the close of June. He reported that the condition of the people was very bad indeed, that he was surrounded by a starving crowd, that such Takavi advances as had been given had mostly been eaten up, and that there was still no poor-house.

During the tour of inspection Captain Ewbank gave to the people of Alampur 145 bullocks at a cost of Rs. 2,305, and he also gave Rs. 1,453 in money doles. The whole sum of Rs. 3,758 was given from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND AND OTHER PRIVATE CHARITY.

56. Nowgong being a large cantonment in the middle of a particularly distressed tract, and also the head-quarters of the Agency, naturally attracted a large number of destitute persons at the early part of the famine when famine measures were being organised, and even later on. The first way in which private charity showed itself was in the opening of a poor-house at Nowgong. His Highness the Maharaja of Tikamgarh sent me Rs. 500 in aid of the poor-house from his private purse, and His Highness the Raja of Samthar sent me Rs. 400; with these two exceptions the poor-house has been opened and maintained from subscriptions raised in the Nowgong Cantonment and Civil lines. Paupers who are residents of the Cantonment or Agency limits are fed there for as long as may be required, but paupers who come from the surrounding States or British districts, are only given a temporary lodging. Arrangements were made by which a representative from each State, and from the Hamirpur District, comes once a week and removes such paupers as are fit to travel. The total amount of money subscribed to the poor-house up to the end of June 1897 was Rs. 3,260 and the total number of admissions up to 18th August was 4,076. The details of these admissions showing the States or districts to which the paupers belonged, are given at Appendix V. The States of Orchha, Charkhari, Chhatarpur, and Garrauli, assisted in building the poor-house by giving materials free of cost; and later on His Highness the Maharaja of Charkhari was kind enough to place a new poor-house at my disposal owing to the one originally built being carried away by the flood, which occurred on the 19th June. All the paupers were, though with some difficulty, removed before the house fell. On that occasion over 22 inches of rain fell in about twenty-five hours and the bridge near the poor-house, which has stood for some thirty years, was washed away.

57. At the very beginning of the famine a sum of Rs. 6,684 was sent to me for disposal as I thought best; the matter is really not in any way an official one, and I only mention it in order to show the good that can be done with money which is at the absolute disposal of the officer responsible for relief measures. This money was used for the purpose of giving money doles to those in distress before any of the official charitable funds were available; but it has mostly been used in cases of emergency where relief ought to be granted from public funds or might be granted from the Indian Famine Relief Fund if money could be drawn without delay. For example, if a State omits to send regularly a small pension to a pension-holder he is reduced to great distress, but he is not a proper object for charity, nor would he accept it, though he is much relieved and most grateful if his pension is paid to him and recovered when received from the State. There were a number of respectable poor in Nowgong in need of help, but there were no funds from which to help them. I was able to pay them cash and recover the amount from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund from which no allotment had then been received. Similarly there was some delay in getting sanction to an additional loan for Jigni, and relief measures could only be maintained by a loan from the money at my disposal. When the time for Takavi advances had come, the Jagirdarin of Nayagaon Rebai asked for a loan. I felt certain that it would be granted, but I had no authority to take money from the Government Treasury, I therefore gave it from the private fund and recovered

it when orders were received. In case of another famine it would much strengthen the hands of the Political Agent if the Government would place at his disposal Rs. 6,000 from which he was permitted to make advances pending orders.

A great deal of suffering can be saved the people by giving small advances to banias to carry on their trade. I found, for example, at Duni, 12 miles from Nowgong, that those wishing to purchase grain had to go to the cantonment as the local grain-dealer had no capital; a loan of Rs. 100 has enabled him to set up a shop and save weary cultivators a walk of 24 miles.

58. From the Indian Charitable Relief Fund this Agency has received in all Rs. 1,19,500 on the dates given below :

																				Rs.
11th March	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
6th April	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20,000
6th May	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6,000
4th June	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	92,000
28th June	1897	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
TOTAL																				1,19,500

While following the principles laid down for the distribution of this Fund, it has been necessary to somewhat modify them in order to make them suit the circumstances of collection of Native States. It is a common saying in Native States that in British India the paupers and labourers receive more help and attention than the cultivators in proportion to the merits of the two classes, and as the converse of this applies in Native States I have felt justified in spending more of the Fund on labourers and paupers than would be considered right in British India. Experience gained last year showed that distress must have been greatest during the rainy months when works are closed; an inspection is difficult; and my first estimate of the allotment that I thought would be required, was based on a proposal to give Rs. 2 to each man who could show that he had been on a relief work for a month. I did not then feel sure that it would be necessary or possible to help the cultivators. As time went on it appeared that there was a need to give such generous assistance to all labourers, that much might be done in clothing people, and that a number of persons might with advantage be given bullocks.

My object has been throughout to allow the money to pass through as few hands as possible, and under the system followed in Bundelkhand speculation has, I believe, been reduced to a vanishing point. Rupees 300 a month is distributed to the respectable poor of the Baoni State through the Superintendent, on lists approved by me, and similarly in the Nowgong Cantonment the respectable poor are given their doles through a committee of native gentlemen. On receiving a report that there was great distress in an outlying pergunnah of the Bijawar State, and that there was some reason to fear that there would be delay in sending money from Bijawar, I sent Rs. 3,000 to Lalla Sheo Nath, the Agency official in charge of relief measures, with instructions to distribute it to the most deserving. With these exceptions the whole of the Fund has been distributed either by myself or by the commissioned officers who have been deputed on famine duty. No attempt has been made to take charge of orphans as the distances are great, and it is difficult to foresee how long the Fund might be called upon to keep them. Very little too has been done for the respectable poor as they are hard to find out without giving more time to one place than can be spared, and it is difficult to satisfactorily ascertain that relations of State officials and Jagirdars are not put forward as respectable poor.

The respectable poor have been helped in Baoni and Nowgong, the two places where reliable information could be obtained.

The bulk of the money has been spent in giving money doles to those whose appearance shows that they have suffered from privation, in giving small sums, generally varying from two to six rupees according to the size of the family, to labourers to help them during the period that must elapse between the closing of relief works and the springing up of an active demand for agricultural labourers, and in setting up cultivators with bullocks, and artisans with their necessary implements of trade. The money dole have of course been given on the spot, as have the gifts made to artisans; in some cases the cultivators have been given money for bullocks, and in other cases they have been given cheques on a local banker, to be cashed at the break of the rains; the labourers who have been given money to help them on the close of the works have all been paid by cheques. The system followed has been to make a nominal roll of all persons receiving cheques showing the amount of the cheque. The cheque is then made over to him and he is told the date on which, and the banker from whom, he will receive the money. The money is sent to the banker shortly before the date fixed for distribution with a copy of the nominal roll, and he is required to send to the Agency an account of the money with the original cheques which were given to the intended recipients as vouchers. The cheques serve the double object of ensuring that the money is not spent until the rains begin, and that the money reaches the persons for whom it is intended. The objection to the scheme is that it takes up much time. The Central Committee has

laid down that no gifts for bullocks should be made to cultivators who have any credit, but in Native States it is difficult to find out in the time available who has credit and who has not. Various systems have been followed in various parts of the Agency. In Baoni, with the help of the Superintendent, Captain Ewbank was able to find out the most suitable objects for relief, and these were given money: in the south of Panna Mr. Barnes had no difficulty in finding cultivators who were clearly in very bad circumstances: in the small jagirs of Dhurwai, Banka Pahari, and Bijna, the cultivators were selected after inquiry had been made in the villages by an Agency official in communication with the jagir officials, the selected persons being brought to Mau where they were paid in cash by me: a somewhat similar system was followed in the jagir of Garrauli: in Alampur the distressed condition of the cultivators was self-evident: in Charhari I had a list made out of all the bullocks required in the Chandla Pergunnah, and from these I selected those persons who seemed most deserving of help; I made a point of selecting those who had lost their bullocks through death or accident in preference to those who had sold their bullocks to avoid the unpleasant necessity of going to relief works. At the same time I came to an agreement with His Highness the Maharaja that if I gave a certain number of bullocks he would give all the others noted in the list as required, irrespective of the security that the cultivators could give. In the matter of selecting persons for gifts of this nature the interests of the State officials and of those entrusted with the distribution of the Fund are identical. The State of course wishes as much land as possible cultivated, and it has to give bullocks to those who do not receive them from the Fund. It is to its interest, therefore, to get bullocks for the poorest from the Fund, so that there may remain to receive State advances those from whom there is the best chance of recovering them. The total number of persons relieved and the form of relief given is noted below. The figures are correct up to 31st July on which date Rs. 11,177-0-9 remained in hand. The money can usefully be expended in blankets and in seed for the Rabi crop, if it is not required to meet more urgent calls:—

Persons clothed	6,684
Persons given money doles	7,894
Orphans relieved	150
Respectable poor (for one month)	1,675
Artizans given money to start their trade	230
Cultivators assisted	4,049
Persons given money at the close of works	17,886
Persons who received medical aid	212
TOTAL	38,780

59. The Ladies of the American Mission at Nowgong have done much good work by providing for a large number of orphans. At one time they introduced the custom of free distribution of grain, but as soon as it was explained to them that charity distributed in this way did no practical good, they put a stop to it. They were invited to come out and see how charity was distributed by the officers of the Agency, and after this they were good enough to accept several suggestions as to how they could best dispose of the money sent to them. They have entirely taken over the support of paupers in the Lughassi Jagir and in the large village of Bilehri, they have promised Rs. 500 worth of seed-grain to selected cultivators of Jigni, and they have made over 1,000 blankets to Captain Ewbank for distribution in outlying districts. They have also offered help in any way they can. I take this opportunity of acknowledging their help and of expressing my thanks for the same.

No. 390C. of 1897.

FROM

CAPTAIN A. F. PINHEY,
POLITICAL AGENT, BAGHELKHAND,

TO

THE SECRETARY, PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE,
INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
INDORE.

Dated Camp via Sutna, the 24th November 1897.

SIR,

In accordance with the instructions contained in para. 7 of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Circular X. Q., dated 16th September 1897, I have the honour to submit the following report to accompany the district accounts and statistics contained in Forms A and B already forwarded with my No. 329C., dated 13th November 1897.

Part I.

2. The whole of the Baghelkhand Agency, consisting of a large State, Area in which there has been distress and its physical condition. Rewah, and a group of smaller states, has been affected by famine. A description of the physical conditions of the district may be taken from Major D. W. K. Barr's Administration Report of the Rewah State for the 5 years, 1881 to 1886, as follows :—

"The Rewah State comprises an area of about 13,000 square miles with a population of 15,09,454. The Kymore hills divide Rewah into two distinct portions, *viz.*, (1) a plateau extending from the range of hills to the north and west bordered by the States of Maihar, Sohawal and Kothi with a strip of land forming part of the Teonthar Tehsil on the Gangetic plain adjoining the districts of Banda and Allahabad, and (2) a wild hilly country south of the Kymores.

"The plateau lying to the north of the Kymore range is an undulating plain, clear of forest, though well wooded with mango, mouha and other valuable trees; fairly populated, and well cultivated. South of the Kymore range of hills the entire nature of the country is changed. Here, instead of a level open and cultivated land, we have a vast tract of forest, hill and jungle, intersected by countless streams, ravines and water-courses."

The minor states, *viz.*, Maihar, Nagode, Sohawal, Kothi, Jaso, Baraunda and the Chobe Jagirs occupy a strip of country along the western border of Rewah, between that state and the Bundelkhand Agency, and enclose an area of about 1,000 square miles with a population of 278,709. Their physical features are very similar to those of the northern portion of Rewah.

3. The principal grain products of the country are wheat, barley, gram, The nature and relative importance of the crops grown. linseed, 'arhar' and 'masur,' which form the 'rabi' or dry crops; and rice, 'kodo,' 'jowar,' 'titi,' and cotton, the 'kharif' or rain crops. As there is little or no irrigation except from bandhs, the successful production of all these crops depends on a good rainfall.

4. The higher classes live quite simple lives; the lower classes too are simple and thrifty. The money-lender has no hold over the subjects of Baghelkhand. The people have no temptation to exceed their means, and therefore live within them.

Rent rates are exceptionally low. The aboriginal tribes of Rewah comprise nearly one-fourth of the total population. They are divided into two distinct groups, *vis.*, Gonds and Kols. They work in the fields and forests; cut wood, clear jungle, and plough land, and are to all intents and purposes the slaves of their employers who consider that they and their wives and children are as much their property as are the cattle and agricultural implements they possess.

Nearly the whole population is engaged in either agriculture or labour connected with agriculture.

5. The following information is taken from the Famine Report for Baghelkhand :—“A large majority of the labouring population is migratory who, after gathering in their scanty crops of “Mukka” and “Sawan” regularly year after year, emigrate to a country which they call “Gurwa,” meaning, apparently, Jubbulpur and Damoh, for harvesting operations in those parts. In fact it is commonly said that the crops in the Central Provinces could not be properly harvested in a good year without the assistance of these emigrants from Rewah, Nagode, Kothi and Sohawal.”

6. In the Annual Reports of the Baghelkhand Agency for 1894-95 it is mentioned that the season had been a most unfortunate one for the agriculturist, following, as it had, two bad seasons; and the first we hear of relief works in Rewah was in the months of February and March 1895. Again in the report for 1895-96 it is stated that no rain having fallen during the months of September, October and November 1895, both kharif and rabi crops were much injured. Relief works had been going on during the year, and poor-houses had been opened at Sutna, Rewah and Maihar. By the beginning of 1896 all hopes of even a fair rabi harvest had to be abandoned, prices had risen, and it was calculated that about 5 per cent. of the population of Rewah, or 86,870 persons, would have to be relieved by the State during the hot weather months. This estimate proved to be much exaggerated and, though distress became acute in parts of the Agency, there was no actual famine until after the monsoon, which for the fourth year in succession, proved a failure. The rainfall of 1896, on which so much depended, suddenly gave out at the end of August, and the winter rains, though abundant in some parts of the Agency, did not come until it was too late. The early crops of “Saman” and “Kakun” in the district north of the Kymore range, and “Saman” and “Mukka” in Berdi, Sohagpur and Ramnagar were saved, but by the end of September these grains as food were exhausted, and in the mean while “Kodo” and rice had withered. “Joar” which had been sown in bandhs and low lying “Mar” soil produced an eight-anna crop in the west of Mowgunj, south of Hazur and Madhogarh Tehsils of Rewah and parts of Nagode, Kothi and Maihar.”

Part II.

7. Early in September 1896 a small fund was started by a few well-to-do merchants of Sutna for the relief of distress in the district. As distress increased this fund gradually expanded, until in November a general meeting was called together and a public subscription list opened under the patronage of His Highness the Maharaja of Rewah, the Political Agent, and the Agency Surgeon. At the same time a committee was formed and the private relief of distress in Sutna, as apart from relief works and the poor-house maintained by the Durbar, was properly organized. The operations of this charity were, however, strictly confined within the limits of Sutna and its immediate neighbourhood, and they were not extended beyond these limits, as the whole fund did not amount

to more than ₹1,375 until the following March. On the 22nd of this month, a meeting was held at Indore for the purpose of forming a Provincial Committee as a branch of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, and the authorities of the various districts in Central India were called upon to form local committees, with the Political Agent as Chairman, for the purpose of appointing members, collecting subscriptions, and corresponding with the Provincial Committee.

The local Committee of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund was formally elected at a general meeting held at Sutna on 10th April 1897, and with this were amalgamated the original Sutna fund and committee.

With the help of contributions from the Central Committee at Calcutta, the Provincial Committee at Indore and local subscriptions from Rewah and other places, the relief of distress was now extended to all parts of the district.

In Rewah, the only large town in the Agency, the distribution of money, clothing, etc., was entrusted to a Sub-Committee with Lal Buldeo Singh, Commander-in-Chief of the Rewah Army, at its head.

In other places the same work was carried out by Dewans of the smaller States, Hospital Assistants, Tehsildars and other local authorities under the strict control and supervision of the Central Committee, whose meetings were held regularly once a week, generally at Sutna, but sometimes also at Rewah.

The procedure as regards requirements under the first three objects into which the operations of this charity were divided, was as follows:—

The Sub-Committee at Rewah and all local authorities were requested to prepare lists of deserving persons under each head with full particulars regarding age, caste, position, employment, etc. These lists were carefully examined by the Secretary, Babu Lal Behari, at head-quarters and produced before the Committee at its weekly meetings. The amount required for each person or family was thereupon sanctioned and distributed through the local authorities. The payments under Object III were paid fortnightly, while clothing and blankets were purchased at Sutna and sent out to the various poor-houses and relief works. The Secretary deserves the greatest credit for the manner in which he has carried out his onerous duties throughout without any remuneration whatever. Lists for the 4th Object were prepared and submitted by the Durbars of the Political Agent who sanctioned such amounts from the fund as he considered necessary for each district, merely reporting what he had done to the Committee at the next meeting. In the smaller States this money was distributed in the presence of either the Political Agent himself or one of his assistants or the Agency Police Inspector. In Rewah, the distribution had to be left to the various Tehsildars.

8. The administration of the fund was of necessity closely connected with Famine operations undertaken by all the States in the Agency, and in most cases the same Agencies had to be employed both for State and private relief. Nevertheless the two methods of relief were kept carefully distinct, and no State was allowed to make the relief afforded by the Charitable Fund any excuse of relaxing its own efforts in the matter of organized poor-houses and relief works.

Part III.

9. Relief actually given under each of the four Objects.—

Object I.—Two thousand five-hundred and thirty persons in poor-houses, 310 persons on relief works, and 19 persons in cholera huts were supplied with clothing locally purchased from weavers at a cost of ₹814-5-0, ₹131-2-0, and ₹17-2-0, respectively. 629 blankets were distributed among the same number at a cost of ₹307-14-9, but of 524 sacks received from Calcutta filled with grain, 493 were filled with straw and utilized as bedding for the inmates of the poor-houses. As far as possible clothes and blankets were distributed by members of the Committee. In places at a distance they were distributed by

local officials such as Tehsildars, Hospital Assistants and Military officers in charge of relief works.

Object II.—The poor-houses were divided into wards, people of the same caste being lodged in the same ward. Separate quarters were provided for lepers and other patients; and one ward was set apart for orphans, who were looked after by women selected from the inmates of the poor-houses. Eight or ten children were given in charge of each nurse and they were given four meals a day. As they were thus properly cared for at the State expense it was not considered necessary to start orphanages at the expense of the fund. Clothing, blankets, bedding and "charpais", however, were supplied to orphans with other inmates of poor-houses. At Rewah, nine children were supported for a short time by the Sub-Committee before they were sent to the Sutna poor-house.

Object III.—Two bales containing 362 skirts, 6 cotton sheets, 387 chadars, and 2 jackets received from England, were sent to this Committee. Being found more fitted for Purdanashin women of good class than for paupers who would probably at once sell them, it was resolved that the clothes be distributed to destitute Purdha women after due enquiry. Persons of good family, but poor, were supplied with these clothes. Besides clothes, regular money payments of Rs 2 a month for adults were made to such destitute persons as by reason of their caste or infirmities were unable to enter a poor-house or join the Durbar Relief Works. Many of these persons, and especially the women borne on the list of the Fund, would undoubtedly have died of starvation but for this timely assistance. The most careful enquiries were instituted in each case and none but really deserving persons received this particular relief.

Object IV.—The money distributed under the fourth Object has had the most beneficial results. While the grants under the first three objects affected only a few persons, those under the fourth head have restored thousands of persons throughout the Agency who had been nearly ruined by the famine, to a position of comparative ease and comfort. Liberal grants of takavi were made by the Durbars, but these would only have enabled cultivators to sow a fraction of the usual area, while with the assistance of additional grants from the Famine Fund they have been able to cultivate the normal area and to keep themselves alive while the crops have been ripening. Altogether about 45,000 persons have received sums ranging from Rs 1 to Rs 100 under this head. The exact numbers can be given when all vouchers have been received.

The grain which came in the sacks mentioned under Object I as having been converted into bedding, consisting of 762 maunds, two wagon loads, was distributed to 1,800 persons, many of them as they were going to their villages on the close of relief works.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. F. PINHEY,

Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

Appendix I.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Chairman.

1. Captain A. F. Pinhey, Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

Secretary.

2. Babu Lal Bihari, B. A.

Treasurer.

3. Messrs. Ganesh Dass Krishnaji.

Members.

1. Surgeon-Major G. H. D. Gimlette, Agency Surgeon.
2. H. H. the Maharaja of Rewah.
3. Raja Sherjung Bahadur Singh, Chief of Sohawal.
4. Lal Baldeo Singh, Commander-in-Chief of Rewah.
5. Lal Janardan Singh, Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Rewah.
6. Rai Bahadur Pundit Ramkrishna, Dewan of Kothi.
7. Babu Radhey Lal, Dewan of Nagode.
8. Babu Dina Nath, Dewan of Maihar.
9. Khan Bahadur Molwi Rahman Ali Khan, Vakil of Rewah.
10. Mr. R. M. Young, Locomotive Foreman, Sutna.
11. Mr. J. L. Clarke, Station Master of Sutna.
12. Seth Som Chand Dharsi, of Sutna.
13. Pundit Surjoo Prasad, Hospital Assistant of Sutna.

A. F. PINHEY, *Captain,*
Political Agent,
Baghelkhand.

Appendix II,

List of Persons other than Members of the Committee who assisted in the distribution of Funds in various parts of the Agency.

1. Pundit Gaya Prasad, Hindi teacher, Raipur (Rewah).
2. Pundit Damodas Gopal Pustakay, Hospital Assistant, (Rewah).
3. Pundit Ganesh Prasad, Hospital Assistant, Mangawan.
4. Munshi Gopinath, Assistant Dewan of Nagode.
5. Jamadar Balraj Singh, Munserim of Relief Work, Madhogarh.
6. Lala Doarka Prasad.
7. Pundit Chhota Lal, School Master, Rampur.
8. Sardar Sant Singh, Tehsildar of Madhogarh.
9. Munshi Sundar Lal, Sarishtadar of Sutna.
10. Bubu Hazari Lal, Hospital Assistant, Teonthar.
11. Sardar Rudra Sahai Singh, Tehsildar of Teonthar.
12. Pundit Vaidiya Nath, Hospital Assistant of Sihawal.
13. Munshi Janki Prasad, Tehsildar of Mongunj.
14. Pundit Kripa Ram, Hospital Assistant of Ramnagar.
15. Pundit Ram Prasad Tiwari, Hospital Assistant of Manpur.
16. Pundit Jai Singh Rao, Hospital Assistant of Pathrora.
17. Munshi Shiam Kishore, Deputy Magistrate of Sohagpur.
18. Munshi Sham Sher Khan, Hospital Assistant of Sohagpur.
19. Mistri Munna Khan, Contractor of Sutna.
20. Munshi Ram Gulam Singh, Kamdar of Jaso.
21. Babu Asotosh Ghosh, Head Master, High School, Rewah.
22. Munshi Bala Prasad, School Teacher, Sutna, and Secretary's Clerk.
23. Pundit Madho Rao, Trimbak Deshmukh, Agency Treasurer.
24. Pundit Ram Chandra Hari Ram, State Treasurer, Sutna.
25. Munshi Sukhpat Rai, Naeb Tehsildar of Sutna.
26. Pundit Krishna Rao Vishnu, State Treasurer, Rewah.
27. S. P. Barve, Hospital Assistant, Chandia.

A. F. PINHEY, *Captain,*
Political Agent,
Baghelkhand,

STATE OF GWALIOR.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

 No. 10913 of 1897.

To

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
CALCUTTA.

Dated Indore Residency, the 17th December 1897.

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for the information of your Committee, the accompanying report of the working of the Gwalior Local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

The accounts are also submitted.

2. I am to point out that the report and the accounts are not final, as operations are still in progress in Gwalior.

3. The final report will be included in the report of the Central India Provincial Branch Committee, which will be submitted to you as soon after the receipt from Gwalior as possible.

4. In conclusion, I am to add that in the final distribution of the Central India Provincial Famine Relief Funds the Committee allotted an additional Rs24,000 to the Gwalior Fund, making the total of its receipts Rs50,805. Details of expenditure of this sum will be shown in the final report referred to above.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. DUCAT,

*Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General
in Central India and Secretary, Central
India Provincial Branch of the Indian
Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

STATE OF GWALIOR.

**Report of the Gwalior Local Committee of the Indian Famine
Charitable Relief Fund to 31st October 1897.**

The area of distress with which the Gwalior Local Committee is concerned lies entirely within the limits of the Gwalior State and extends to 4,096 square miles, comprising the following six subats or districts: Tawarghar, Sikarwari, Bhind, Gird, Bhandar, and Narwar. The land is generally good and produces all kinds of ordinary food and non-food crops, but as there is no large river or canal from which irrigation can be carried on, the serious failure of the monsoon rains in 1896 (a failure which had been partial also in the two previous years) necessarily caused great and widespread distress. Both *kharif* and *rabi* crops are grown in the area. Of the *kharif* crops the principal is *jawar*, next to which come *bajra* and *makkā*. Of the *rabi* crops, gram stands first, and wheat next. The people belong almost entirely to the agricultural class and are generally poor.

During the three months immediately preceding the cold weather of 1896-97, the chief crops obtained were *jawar*, *bajra* and *makkā*.

The harvest of 1897 showed a very serious deficiency throughout the affected districts, the *rabi* yielding only an average outturn of 2 annas to 4 annas in the rupee and the *kharif* 6 annas.

2. Under orders from the Central India Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund a local Committee for Gwalior was formed on the 30th August composed of—

Major Pears	President.
His Highness to M. R. Scindia, G.C.S.I. }	Members.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Crofts }	
J. W. D. Johnstone, Esq.	Secretary.

The appointment of this Committee was delayed chiefly owing to the sudden death of Major MacIvor, Resident at Gwalior, early in August, but on the date of its formation it proceeded to provide for the distribution of relief.

Various agencies have been and are being employed for the actual distribution. For purposes of Object I, the officers in charge of Poor-houses were entrusted with the distribution of clothes. As regards Object II, no expenditure on orphans has, up to the present, been incurred, but a few will have to be assisted, the agency employed being the Land Records Department. For Object III, the Medical Officers to H. H. the Maharaja Scindia is arranging for distribution of clothes to persons not in receipt of State relief through the Vaccination Branch of his Department. As to Object IV, to which the great bulk of the funds has been allotted, the Land Records Department has undertaken the task of distributing relief to cultivators for the purchase of cattle and seed-grain. The officials utilised for this work are the Assistant Directors and Inspectors of the Department who act in consultation with the Purgana Officers, assisted by Kanungos and Patwaris.

The State has not undertaken relief under any of the above-named heads, with the exception of the purchase of a few clothes and blankets for inmates of the Gwalior Poor-house when that institution was closed on the 15th September. It may, therefore, be said that practically no overlapping of State and charitable relief has occurred.

3. As to the relief actually given by the Fund, the present report must be considered an *ad interim* one, as there has not been sufficient time to com-

plete the work. The delay is owing to a twofold cause—the late date on which the local Committee was formed, and the unhealthiness of the season. The Land Records Department especially has been seriously hampered in its operations by the great prevalence of fever from which a large number of its officials have been suffering. A final report will be submitted when the distribution of relief has been brought to a conclusion. Meanwhile, it must suffice to describe shortly the arrangements made up to the present for the purpose. The Local Committee had at its disposal the following funds: Rupees 25,000 from the Central Fund and R1,805 from local subscriptions, as well as some bales of clothes sent from England. One of these bales was stolen during transit by rail from Calcutta, and a sum of R261-14-9 was paid as compensation by the Railway Company. The remaining clothes were distributed to the inmates of the Gwalior poor-house, with the exception of a few which have been made over to the Medical Department for distribution, wherever necessary, through the Vaccination Branch. Out of the R25,000 received from the Central Fund, a sum of R20,000 was placed at the credit of the Land Records Department for distribution to needy cultivators to enable them to purchase cattle and seed-grain. Considerable progress has been made in this work, the allotments to the distressed districts being as follows:—

	R	a.	p.
Tawarghar	5,274	9	9
Sikarwari	3,779	13	6
Bhind	4,874	2	0
Gird	3,297	5	9
Bhandar	1,989	7	0
Narwar	696	11	6
TOTAL	R19,912	1	6

Commission on hundis, amounting to R87-14-6, makes up the total of R20,000.

A much larger sum could be usefully spent under this head, and a further grant has been asked for from the Central Fund, but every endeavour is being made to make the available funds go as far as possible. With this object it has hitherto been found advisable to give small sums varying from R2 to R10 according to the size of holdings for purchase of seed-grain to the poorer cultivators who are in worst case, rather than larger sums to those who need assistance less. It is understood that the small cultivators will plough their land with hired cattle. Indeed, the Thakur Zamindars, though some have suffered very severe losses from the famine, have almost invariably refused to accept gratuitous relief, preferring to take loans. This shows a very commendable and worthy spirit of pride on the part of the Thakurs, and the Gwalior Durbār will no doubt undertake the grant of loans to them on easy terms, which will enable them to recover in a short time from their present depressed condition. The small sums above mentioned will be of incalculable benefit to those who receive them, and will extend relief much more widely than could have been done by any other means with the limited funds at command.

To ensure that relief should be given as far as possible in every case where it was required under Object IV, a list of cultivators was first prepared by Kanungos. From this, selection was made by the Tehsildars and Assistant Directors of the Land Records Department when distributing the money.

The remaining R5,000 of the Central Fund allotment was placed at the disposal of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Crofts for purchase of clothing to be distributed to persons requiring it. This work is now in progress, as already mentioned, through the agency of the Vaccination Branch of the Medical Department, but will not be completed for some time yet.

Of the local subscriptions, R1,388 were expended on the purchase of clothing for inmates of the Gwalior and other poor-houses. The remainder will probably be utilised for assistance to orphans, who have not been otherwise provided for, but no large sum will be required for this purpose as

most of these children have been comfortably placed either by being adopted into families or being employed as servants.

The bales of clothing received from England were distributed to the inmates of the Gwalior poor-house. A small balance which remained has been made over to the Medical Department for distribution. An additional bale has recently been received which will be utilised where it is found necessary.

4. The only special item of receipt to be mentioned has already been referred to, *viz.*, the compensation paid by the Railway Company for the stolen bale of clothes, which requires no further remark. The names of those who have rendered special services in the work of distribution will be mentioned hereafter when the final report is submitted.

J. W. D. JOHNSTONE,
Inspector-General of Education, Gwalior State,
and Secretary, Gwalior Local Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

B.

I. F. C. R. FUND, CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY.

Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

OBJECT I.

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
A.—CLOTHING, BLANKETS, ETC., TO PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF, WHETHER IN POOR-HOUSES, KITCHENS, OR OUTSIDE.							
<i>(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given:—</i>							
<i>Number of persons.</i>							
(a) the articles being sent from England	195	.....	.....	23	.....	218	
(b) the articles being provided by the Provincial Committee . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee . . .	1,542	3,928	9,308	.....	40	14,818	
Total number of persons .	1,737	3,928	9,308*	23	40	15,036	
<i>R a. p.</i>							
(1) expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (c) above .	1,388 13 9	1,281 10 0	6,429 6 3	.....	200 0 0	9,299 14 0	
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers . .	.....	1,154 13 9	5,423 14 9	.....	.....	6,578 12 6	
(3) how much from petty shop-keepers . .	.....	126 12 3	.....	.....	.....	126 12 3	
(4) how much in buying from large cloth-dealers . . .	1,388 13 9	.....	1,005 7 6	.....	200 0 0	2,594 5 3	
<i>(ii) number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing ; amount so given . .</i>	.....	.....	.. ...	.....	.....	.....
B.—OTHER EXPENDITURE IN POOR-HOUSES OR KITCHENS.							
<i>(i) maintaining poor-houses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them:—</i>							
<i>R a. p.</i>							
(a) amount spent in building and furnishing poor-houses or kitchens . .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	.....	.....	... ..
(b) establishment charges . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.. ...	.....
(c) conveying paupers to poor-houses . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(d) rations and comforts . . .	.....	.....	.....	†62 0 0	.....	62 0 0	
(e) other expenditure (with details) .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL .	1,388 13 9	1,281 10 0	6,429 6 3	62 0 0	200 0 0	9,361 14 0	

* Given blankets . 801
Clothed . 8,507
9,308

† Expended in Kurwai.

[illegible]

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
Brought forward.	1,388 13 9	1,303 3 0	6,429 6 3	851 3 0	200 0 0	1,0172 10 0	
Providing meals for children or fed and infirm persons about relief works—							
(a) Total amount to expended	.....	34 14 9	.....	300 6 2	.....	335 4 11	
(b) Period during which it was expended	.....	3 months 28 days.	.....	3 months 5 days	.....	.....
(c) Average number for each day—	.....	3'575	.....	.....	.....	.....
A children	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
B aged persons	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....
C infirm persons	.....	.....	.....	51'8 average	.....	.....
UNDER RELIEF UNDER HEADING "OR- PHANS," such as assistance to wan- ders, sending them to Relief Works their own villages, Grants made for people out of relief officers costs.							
Expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons re- lieved.				
	R a. p.						
Made to the	.....	.....	.....	April to Octo- ber.	.....	.....
wanderers to own villages	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Distributed to weak and sick	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	
Object I	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1,388 13 9	1,355 15 9	15,747 6 0	1,151 9 2	200 0 0	19,843 12 8	
OBJECT II.—ORPHANS.							
Expenditure during the famine:—							
Expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of orphans				
to Orphan-	.....	.....	.....	April to Octo- ber 1897.	.....	.....
tion of Or-	.....	.....	.....	* 280 1 6	.....	.....
phanes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ence of or-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
phanes in Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
tags	.....	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	
age of orphans	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
thomes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
n of orphans	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
ous	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Object II	.....	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
Number of orphans to whom clothes are given—							
(a) the articles being sent from England.							
(b) the articles provided by the Provincial Committee.							
(c) the cloth or articles being pur- chased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committee or by gentle- men provided with funds by the Local Committee.							
Carried over Object I and II.	1,388 13 9	1,368 1 0	16,027 7 6	1,207 10 1	200 0 0	21,192 0 4	

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
Brought forward—Objects I and II	1,388 13 9	1,368 1 0	16,027 7 6	1,207 10 1	200 0 0	21,192 0 4	
(iii) Relief after the famine—							
(a) number of orphans already provided for—							
	If possible, state—						
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
(b) ages of such orphans—under 1 year—							
over 1 and under 3 years	...	...	...	0	4	4	.....
over 3 and under 5 years	...	...	...	1	0	1	.....
over 5 and under 10 years	...	...	...	1	0	1	.....
over 10 years	...	...	...	...	...	6	.....
(c) Brief statement of arrangements made for maintenance till such orphans become self-supporting	.....	.....	Very little has been done towards this end, but the matter is now under consideration.	It is not possible under the straitened condition of the Kurwai State to make such arrangements; it can provide for them for about 3 months more by local subscriptions.			.....
(d) sum paid for such arrangements	.....	.....	Ditto	.....	.....	.....	.....
OBJECT III.							
A.—SUPPLY OF CLOTHING TO RESPECTABLE POOR, NOT IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF.							
(i) Number of persons to whom articles of clothing were given—							
	No. of persons						
(a) the articles being sent from England	.....	410	90	Nil	.....	.....	.....
(b) the articles provided by the Provincial Committee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	.....	1,216	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	.....	1,626	90	.....	.....	.....	.....
	R a. p.						
(1) expenditure incurred under (c) above	.....	938 4 0	.....	Nil	.....	938 4 0	.....
(2) how much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(3) how much from petty shopkeepers	.....	7 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(4) how much from large cloth-dealers	.....	931 4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carried over—Object I	.....	1,876 8 0	.....	.....	.....	938 4 0	.....
Carried over—Objects I, II and III	1,388 13 9	2,306 5 0	16,027 7 6	1,207 10 1	200 0 0	22,130 4 4	

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
Brought forward Objects I, II, & III	1,383 13 9	2,306 5 0	16,027 7 6	1,207 1 1	200 0 0	22,130 4 4	
Brought forward—Object III	.....	938 4 0	.....	.....	.....	938 4 0	
(ii) Number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing ; amount so given, R							
B.—PROVISION OF WORK TO RESPECTABLE POOR (other than that shown under heading "Object IV" below, as provided for professional workmen).							
(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee—							
(a) nature of work offered	.....	.....	.....	Nil	.....	.....
(b) number of people supplied with materials	.....	.....	.....	Nil	.....	.....
(c) cost of materials . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(d) quantity of finished product returned by them	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(e) amount paid for their labour . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(f) amount received by sale of the produce R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(g) profit or loss to the Fund . . . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Work given out to be sold by the workers—							
(a) nature of work given	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) number of people supplied with materials	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) amount expended . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C.—GRAIN OR COOKED FOOD DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR—							
(i) period during which this relief was given	.....	.....	.....	3 months 5 days.	.....	.....
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles	.....	.....	.....	12·8 average	.....	.....
(iii) rates of the doles.	.....	.....	.....	10 chittacks per head.	.....	.....
(iv) at what intervals given	.....	.....	.....	Daily	.....	.....
(v) amount expended . R	.....	.....	.....	76 0 8	.....	76 0 8	
D.—MONEY DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD—							
(i) period during which this relief was given	.....	April to October 1897, 7 months.	March to October 1897.	.....	.....	.....
(ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles	.....	3,724	2,310	Nil	.....	.....
(iii) rates of the doles.	.....	Adults per mensem, R2-0-0 Below 16 years, R1-8-0 Below 10 years, R1-0-0 Below 2 years, R0-8-0	Very varying	.....	.....	.....
(iv) at what intervals given	.....	Fortnightly	Various	.....	.....	.....
(v) amount expended . R	.....	26,611 0 0	4,861 1 0	.....	.....	31,472 1 0	
Carried over—Object III	.....	27,549 4 0	4,861 1 0	76 0 8	.....	32,486 5 8	
Carried over—Objects I, II, & III	1,383 13 9	29,855 9 0	20,888 8 6	1,283 10 9	200 0 0	53,678 6 0	

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
Brought forward Objects I, II & III	R a p. 1,388 13 9	R a p. 29,855 9 0	R a p. 20,888 8 6	R a p. 1,283 10 9	R a p. 200 0 0	R a p. 53,678 6 0	
Brought forward—Object III	...	27,549 4 0	4,861 1 0	76 0 8	...	32,486 5 8	
E.—CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS—							
(1) Number and localities of grain shops	.....	.....	.....	Nil	.....	.....
(2) Period during which relief was given	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(3) Net amount expended from the Fund during that period	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(4) Excess of privileged rate over market rate (in seers or lbs. per rupee)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(5) Average number of persons relieved during each month of the period	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Object III	...	27,549 4 0	4,861 1 0	76 0 8	.....	32,486 5 8	
OBJECT IV.							
A.—PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT TO PROFESSIONAL WORKMEN.							
(i) Work given out, to be returned to the Committee—							
(a) nature of employments assisted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) number of people supplied with money or materials	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) cost of materials (or money advances)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(d) quantities of finished products returned by them	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(e) amount paid for their labour . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(f) amount received by sale of products . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Assistance in providing materials for work to be sold by the workers—							
(a) nature of employments assisted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) number of people supplied with materials	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) cost of such materials . R	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(d) number of people who received money gifts	.....	.....	179 artisans	.....	.....	.....
(e) amount of such gifts R	.....	.....	850 12 0	.....	.....	850 12 0	
B.—ASSISTANCE TOWARDS REBUILDING OR REPAIRING OF HOUSES.							
(i) number of people assisted	.....	33	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) causes of destructions of houses (fire, want, etc.)	.....	Fire	.....	.....	.....	.....
(iii) amount expended . R	.....	67 4 0	.....	.....	.....	67 4 0	
C.—ASSISTANCE WHERE ONLY MONEY GRANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PROVISION OF CATTLE, SEED-GRAIN, etc., TO CULTIVATORS—							
(i) number of cultivators assisted	.....	27,368	2,177	.....	.....	.....
(ii) (roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone	.....	.....	1,822	.....	.....	.....
(roughly) how many for purchase of seed-grain alone	.....	.....	355	.....	.....	.....
(roughly) for fodder subsistence of cattle alone	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carried over, Object IV	.....	67 4 0	850 12 0	.....	.....	918 0 0	
Carried over—Objects I, II, III & IV	1,388 13 9	29,922 13 0	21,739 4 6	1,283 10 9	200 0 0	54,596 6 0	

	Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
Brought forward I, II, III and IV	1,388 13 9	29,922 13 0	21,739 4 6	1,283 10 9	200 0 0	54,596 6 0	
Brought forward Object I, IV	67 4 0	850 12 0	.....	.....	918 0 0	
(roughly) for fodder subsistence of cultivator and family alone	
(roughly) for wages to labourers alone	
(roughly) for more than one of the above objects	
(iii) amount of gifts made	
(iv) (roughly) how much for purchase of cattle	1,94,746 12 0	22,709 0 0	.....	.....	2,17,455 12 0	
(roughly) how much for purchase of seed-grain	18,570 0 0	.....	.....	.....
(roughly) how much for subsistence of cattle	4,139 0 0	.....	.....	.....
(roughly) how much for subsistence of cultivators and family	
(roughly) how much wages to labourers	
D.—ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS BY GRANTS IN KIND—							
(i) CATTLE—	R a. p.						
(1) Number of cattle purchased	106	.....	.....
(2) Price of cattle purchased	800 0 0	.....	800 0 0	
(3) Number of cultivators assisted by grants or loans of cattle (estimated)	96	.....	.....
(ii) SEED—							
(i) Quantity of seed purchased	Mds. Seers, 20 20 0	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Price of seed purchased	204 10 3	.....	.....	204 10 3	
(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed	67	.....	.....	.....
(iii) FODDER—							
(a) Net expenditure on fodder bought from Government and sold at cheap rates or given away	Nil	.....	.....
(b) Net expenditure on fodder received from Provincial Committee or locally purchased and sold at cheap rates or given away	
(c) Total value of money grants made for purchases	Nil	.....	.....
(d) Total number of free grants made of fodder in kind	
(e) Total number of grants of fodder in kind made at reduced prices	Nil	.....	.....
(f) Total number of money grants made for purchase of fodder alone	
(g) Totals of (d), (e) and (f), showing total number of persons assisted with fodder	
Carried over, Object IV	1,94,814 0 0	23,764 6 3	800 0 0	.....	2,19,378 6 3	
Carried over I, II, III, IV	1,388 13 9	2,24,736 13 0	45,503 10 9	2,083 10 9	200 0 0	2,73,656 12 3	

				Gwalior.	Baghelkhand.	Bundelkhand.	Bhopal.	Bhopawar.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
				R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	
Brought forward I, II, III and IV				1,388 13 9	2,24,736 13 0	45,503 10 9	2,083 10 9	200 0 0	2,73,056 12 3	
Brought forward—Object IV				.....	1,94,814 0 0	23,764 6 3	800 0 0	.....	2,19,378 6 3	
E.—LOANS RECOVERABLE.—										
(a) To agriculturists—										
Amount				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) To others—										
Amount				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
F.—OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER HEADING "OBJECT IV":										
Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.							
		R a. p.								
Payment to a Bania for opening a shop				.....	1 0 0 No. 1	.....	.....	.....	10 0 0	
Valedictory sums of money given to persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief, especially to enable them to return to their homes and to aid them while starting afresh				.....	2,816 1 6 No. 3,661	.....	.....	.....	2,816 1 6	
Money doles given				.....	.....	April to October 1897. 6,618 5 0 No. 2,748	September 1897. 3 8 3 No. 4	.....	6,621 13 3	
Persons given money to help them on the close of the relief Works				.....	.....	60,999 0 0 No. 17,794	.....	.....	60,999 0 0	
TOTAL OBJECT IV				.....	1,97,640 1 6	91,381 11 3	803 8 3	.....	2,89,825 5 0	
OBJECT V.										
MISCELLANEOUS—										
(a) Office and contingent expenditure										
				2 10 0	131 3 3	167 2 3	Nil	.....	300 15 6	
(b) Printing				1 0 0	.....	38 9 0	.....	.....	39 9 0	
TOTAL, OBJECT V				3 10 0	131 3 3	205 11 3	.....	.....	340 8 6	
TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS				1,392 7 9	2,26,688 9 9	1,12,475 15 0	2,087 3 0	200 0 0	3,43,844 3 6	
				Amount expended for even which statistics were not kept					20,857 6 6	
GRAND TOTAL UNDER ALL OBJECTS										3,64,701 10 0

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL INDIA.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.		Amount.	EXPENDITURE.		Amount.
	R	a. p.		R	a. p.
1. Opening balance—			1. Under Object I	.....	19,843 12 8
District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form D, column 1)			2. Ditto II	.....	1,348 3 8
			3. Ditto III	.....	32,486 5 8
2. Remittances from Central Committee—			4. Ditto IV	.....	2,89,825 5 0
(a) From General Fund	3,50,000	0 0	4a. Unclassified expenditure	.....	20,798 0 0
(b) "Ear-marked" for the Province	50	0 0	5. Miscellaneous—		
3. Local subscriptions for the Province—			(a) Provincial Committee	59 6 6	
(a) Collected directly by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee	43,298	2 0	(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 5)	340 8 6	
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use (<i>vide</i> Form D, column 2)	10,629	12 9	6. Closing balances—		399 15 0
(c) Remitted by Provincial Committee to District Committees	20,798	0 0	(a) With Provincial Committee	21,490 11 6	
4. Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—			(b) With District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 7)	39,299 6 0	
District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form D, column 4)					60,790 1 6
			TOTAL R	4,25,491 11 6	
					587

C. DUCAT, Lieutenant,

Honorary Secretary,

Central India Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL INDIA.

STATEMENT of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening Balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Bundelkhand	500 0 0	...	1,19,000 0 0	...	1,19,500 0 0
2	Baghelkhand	56 0 0	8,824 12 9	2,20,000 0 0	159 12 9	2,29,040 9 6
3	Gwalior . . . .	...	1,805 0 0	28,710 13 0	...	30,515 13 0
4	Bhopal . . . .	...	...	2,087 3 0	...	2,087 3 0
5	Bhopawar . . . .	...	...	1,000 0 0	...	1,000 0 0
	TOTAL R .	556 0 0	10,629 12 9	3,70,798 0 0	159 12 9	3,82,143 9 6

C. DUCAT, Lieutenant,

Honorary Secretary,

Central India Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL INDIA.

STATEMENT of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

PAYMENTS.

	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balances.	TOTAL.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
1 Bundelkhand .	15,747 6 0	280 1 6	4,861 1 0	91,381 11 3	205 11 3	1,12,475 15 0	7,024 1 0	1,19,500 0 0
2 Baghelkhand .	1,355 15 9	12 1 3	27,549 4 0	1,97,640 1 6	131 3 3	2,26,688 9 9	2,351 15 9	2,29,040 9 0
3 Gwalior . .	1,388 13 9	...	...	...	3 10 0	1,392 7 9	29,123 5 3	30,515 13 0
4 Bhopal . .	1,151 9 2	56 0 11	76 0 8	803 8 3	...	2,087 3 0	...	2,087 3 0
5 Bhopawar .	200 0 0	...	...	...	...	200 0 0	800 0 0	1,000 0 0
TOTAL R	19,843 12 8	348 3 8*	32,486 5 8	2,89,825 5 0	340 8 6	3,42,844 3 6	39,299 6 0	3,82,143 9 0

* In addition to this amount a sum of Rs. 1,000 was granted to a mission in Indore towards the support of orphans under its charge.

C. DUCAT, Lieutenant,

Honorary Secretary,

Central India Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL INDIA.

589

C. DUCAT, *Lieutenant,
Honorary Secretary,
Central India Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

C. DUCAT, Lieutenant,
Honorary Sec

Central India Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

PROVINCIAL FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF
COMMITTEE, BURMA.

FROM

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Rangoon,

TO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,
Calcutta.

Dated Rangoon, the 11th February 1898.

SIR,

I am directed to forward herewith the reports* on the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee, together with a consolidated set of statements relating to the administration of the funds placed at the disposal of the Provincial Committee.

* (1) Yamethin District Report.
(2) Letter No. 46-1S.—46, dated the 5th November 1897, from the Deputy Commissioner, Myingyan.
(3) Letter No. 2899, dated the 19th November 1897, from the Deputy Commissioner, Meiktila.

I am to express regret that owing to the delay in getting the subscription lists from District Committees, it was impossible to submit the reports and accounts earlier.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. F. NOYCE,

Honorary Secretary.

REPORT ON THE DISTRICT OF YAMETHIN.

1. The portion of this district in which there has been distress is the whole of the Yamethin or Northern Sub-division, with the exception of a small partly-irrigated tract in the south-east corner. The distressed tract may be said to be an undulating table-land, sloping gently from the west towards the foot of the Shan Hills. There are no high hills or forests in the tract, and it follows that there are no perennial streams. Water for irrigation is obtained from rainfall which runs off the surface of the ground and is in some places stored up in tanks. Water for domestic use is obtained chiefly from wells, and the tanks generally contain enough to supply the cattle until the commencement of the next season's rains.

The principal crops grown are sessamum in the early months of the year, and paddy towards the middle and end. These are the only crops, on which the people look with any favour, and it is only when paddy fails that any attempt is made to find a substitute, and then the only substitute worth considering is jowar (*sorghum vulgare*). Besides these crops a little maize, cotton, and pulses are grown, but not in considerable quantities.

Fortunately, however, the tract is admirably adapted for cattle-breeding, and this is important to remember in considering the economic condition of the people.

But to return to the crops—paddy is hardly ever completely successful, and there is never a year in which there are not failures over more or less large tracts. The people seem to be accustomed to this, and as a result they endeavour to supplement their incomes in various ways, such as migration to Lower Burma for the cultivating and reaping seasons, carting to and from the Shan States, and so on. The people do not at any time live the life of happy indolence, to which their Lower Burman brethren are accustomed.

Their occupation is mainly agriculture, with its necessary concomitants, such as small shop-keepers, carpenters, blacksmiths and the like.

2. The crops of 1896-97 were total failures throughout the scarcity tract, and this can be said of the early sessamum, as well as of the later paddy crop. Some idea of the failure may be gathered from the following statement of revenue collections in 1896-97, as compared with the previous year:—

Kind of tax.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
Thathameda	1,87,534	29,556
Water-rate	27,350	2,683

The revenue collected in 1896-97 came mostly from the abovementioned south-east corner of the Yamethin Sub-division and from the towns, where it was felt that the crop failure did not press so hardly as in those directly connected with agriculture.

3. As soon as the total failure of the main paddy and jowar crops became a certainty, steps were taken by means of test works to find out if the people would work for famine wages. These works showed unmistakably the presence of famine, and steps were taken to commence regular relief operations. On the 12th November 1896 the provisions of the Famine Code were applied to the

affected tract, and officers were appointed to be Circle Inspectors, while selected headmen were appointed as local officers.

On the 13th of February 1897 a Local Charitable Relief Committee was formed, composed of the following gentlemen :—

Chairman.

D. Ross, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Members.

Mr. F. J. Ellis, Government Pensioner.

U. Kye, K.S.M., Myook.

U. Se, Merchant.

To which were subsequently added—

The Revd. Father Ruppin, R.C.P.

U. Kyin, Merchant.

Mr. Calagreedy, Advocate.

The Committee at their first meeting on 13th February resolved to recommend that any money received from the Provincial Committee should be devoted entirely to the purchase of seed-grain to be distributed gratuitously at the commencement of the rains. Subsequently they decided to include all persons whose case came within Object IV, but I regret that our registers do not enable me to state the number of non-agriculturists who were relieved.

Sub-Committees were not formed, but the Circle Inspectors and Township and Sub-Divisional Officers were associated with the local Committee in the preparation of the lists of deserving persons, and when these lists were ready, the members of my Committee, or as many as could attend, proceeded to convenient centres and distributed the money. It may be noted that persons in receipt of Government relief were not assisted from the fund, except in a few cases where Object IV applied, and such persons were immediately struck off Government relief.

The relief operations have not yet been wound up, as a balance of R894-14-0 has still to be accounted for. Arrangements are being made for the distribution of this money amongst the persons struck off Government relief to enable them to carry on until the full harvest is reaped. It would have been distributed earlier, but for the necessity of keeping a balance for expenditure under the second head. Happily no destitute orphans have been found, and the Provincial Committee have sanctioned the expenditure of the whole balance.

(Sd.) MAUNG NE WUN,

For Deputy Commissioner, Yamethin.

Letter from the Deputy Commissioner, MYINGYAN, to the Honorary Secretary, Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Committee, Rangoon, No. 46-1 S.—46, dated the 5th November 1897.

I have the honour to forward you the complete accounts of the local Committee for the Myingyan District up to 31st October 1897, together with the report which is asked for by Circular X.Q., dated Calcutta, the 16th September 1897.

The District of Myingyan lies in what is known as the dry zone of Upper Burma, and although the Irrawaddy flows along its entire length (forming the western boundary), only those lands which are actually on the river bank benefit by its water as regards agriculture.

The entire district contains but one tank (exclusive of the tanks along the river), and in 1896 this tank was dry.

Myingyan is divided into six townships, of which only one was not affected by famine (Natogyi), whilst one was not declared famine-stricken (Sale), because of its proximity to the oil wells of Burma and of the ability of the people to find work across their border without the assistance of Government. The remaining four townships, Myingyan, Taungtha, Pagan and Kyaukpadaung, were proclaimed famine-stricken, and the provisions of the Code were applied :—

Township.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Date of declaration.	REMARKS.
Myingyan	422	84,456	30th Dec. 1896	
Taungtha	516	49,904	19th Oct. 1896	
Pagan	582	53,669	9th Nov. 1896	
Kyaukpadaung	723	72,042	13th Jan. 1897	

It may be accepted as a fact that one-quarter of the abovementioned population has temporarily migrated to other parts of Burma.

The crops of the district are divided into early and late crops, the early crops being early sessamum (*hnanyin*) and cotton, and the late crops being millet, late sessamum, and pulses. Although patches of paddy land are not unknown away from the river bank, the district is not a paddy-producing country, and this crop in no year appreciably affects the condition of the district for good or for bad. Early sessamum is always a very uncertain crop, and the people do not place any great reliance on the outturn. Cotton is the valuable crop, and is grown for exportation, whilst the remaining crops, millet, pulses, and cereals, are grown for local consumption.

Although the district lies in the dry zone, the soil being generally suitable only for cotton, and the rainfall is so uncertain, nevertheless the population is purely agricultural, and the only industries besides the lacquer work of Nyaungu and Pagan, which employs half-a-dozen villages, are mat-making, pottery, and weaving, which employ but a few hundred souls all told.

Annually the surplus population migrates to Lower Burma to help to sow, reap, and thresh the paddy crops of the delta districts, and the number of migrants varies according to the condition of the local crops, bad crops resulting in large numbers of persons floating down the river on rafts or country boats, whilst some thousands go by the river steamers. These emigrants usually leave the district in August and September, and return in February, March, and April.

In the Myingyan township, though the rainfall of 1896-97 exceeded that of the previous year, it was so capricious that it failed to ripen the crops. They were most exasperating rains, for alternate excessive rainfall and long periods of draught followed each other, and though the crops one after the other were nurtured to a good height and of promising appearance, they all drooped and died at the last moment for want of another shower or two.

It may be considered that there were no early rains, and that which should have been early fell in May and June and then there was a dry spell till October, and after that no more.

The result of agricultural operations in Myingyan was equivalent to that of Meiktila and Yamethin, but the failure was attained under different circumstances, for whilst in the latter district much seed was never put in the ground, and such as was planted and sprouted was scorched at once, the crops of this district were coaxed and nourished by capricious showers to full height and to great beauty in many places, and then came the disappointment, for showers ceased, and the jowar, the staple crop of the district, slowly died, first of all becoming yellow and dry at the root, and the paralysis slowly extending up the stalk.

It was in November and December 1896 no uncommon sight to find field after field of jowar with heads waving from 10 to 15 feet from the ground, but

the heads were empty and the roots dry and dead, and the crops of no use, except for fodder for cattle and a dangerous fodder at that.

The result may be summed up as follows :—

Early sessamum did no better than a quarter crop, whilst absolute failure was reported in many villages. The valuable cotton crop gave at most a quarter crop. Late crops, such as jowar, maize and late sessamum, failed, as also, except on the river bank, did the little paddy, which is every where and there found in the district. The pulses did moderately on islands, but as a district crop it failed.

Test works were opened on 11th September 1896, which drew numbers of course. These works were managed by district officials, in addition to their current duties and were not strictly worked according to the Code, but they fulfilled their object; they showed that distress existed, and consequently famine works were opened.

At the close of the year the Municipality and District Funds gave out as much work as funds would allow, and the Civil Veterinary Officer, Burma, was induced to spend an allotment for the purchase of cattle in this district. This was all that could be done locally and by the district officials and public bodies.

On 20th January 1897, a sum of Rs200 was generously sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Myingyan by a body calling itself the Rangoon Famine Charitable Relief Committee in Rangoon, and this money was spent in relieving destitutes, providing them with the means of subsistence before the famine fund was organised.

On 24th February 1897, the District Committee of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund was formed at Myingyan, consisting of the following gentlemen :—

Chairman.

1. B. S. Carey, Esq., C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner.

Members.

2. Surgn.-Capt. Russell, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon.
3. Maung Ba Thaw, Myook and Akunwun.
4. Hadji Gulam Hussain, Municipal Commissioner.
5. Maung Tun Hla, Thugyi.
6. Maung Shwe Kyi, Broker.
7. Maung San Nyein, Merchant.
8. Revd. J. E. Case, A. B. Missionary.

The Bailiff of the Deputy Commissioner's Court was appointed Honorary Treasurer and Accountant.

Mr. Carey on being transferred from the district resigned the Chairmanship of the local Committee on the 14th October 1897. I having taken over charge of the district as Deputy Commissioner, assumed charge on the same date. On the 27th April Mr. H. T. P. Hall, Sub-divisional Officer, was added to the Committee, and on his appointment to special duty his successor, Mr. H. A. Thornton, took his place.

No Sub-Committees were formed, nor was the district divided into charges.

The agency for the actual distribution of relief were the Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon, the two Assistant Commissioners in charge of the Sub-divisions, the Famine Circle Inspectors and the Township Officers. It has been a particular point in the famine administration of this district that every anna which has been given out has been disbursed by European Gazetted officers, not as a slight to the Burman officials, but in order that it may never be suggested that any money was lost between leaving the Treasury and reaching the people, though of course we have experienced a few painful instances of misrepresentation and impersonation, and these have been punished with rigorous imprisonment.

The line of policy to adopt in Myingyan District offered no difficulties, for the cultivators, *i.e.*, petty farmers and their labourers form the bulk of the population, and in order to recover the district from famine it was necessary to keep the farmers on their lands for the present and enable them to employ labour in the future. Then there were the destitutes, semi-nude creatures, who flocked to the works if they were able to, or who remained at home if they were unable.

The Government claimed the right to feed the people who could not work, and to give work on wages to those who could work, but naturally it could not be expected that Government would clothe them; so the Committee accepting the fact that all that could be done by Government for the class of people who neither owned cattle nor land, and who depended solely on their labour, would be done, has endeavoured to clothe them properly, and thus keep them warm and decent whilst labouring on famine relief works, or whilst living on the Government gratuitous relief in their villages. The work of the Committee thus dove-tailed in with Government plans and arrangements, Government feeding and providing work, whilst the Committee clothed.

The clothes were made by local Burmans, and the money for them expended in the district. The clothes were bought by the Deputy Commissioner, assisted by Maung Ba Thaw and Maung Shwe Nyi, and were distributed by the Civil Officer and the camp officers in charge of the famine camps and in the villages by the Circle Inspectors.

The clothes were given out to those in dire need of them, and changed the appearance of the sordid, miserable-looking people into respectable beings. An account of the actual distribution of clothes has already been published at page 61 of the first Report of the Central Executive Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Fund, 1897.

There was one arrangement made to help the "coolly class," which I favour very much, and which is, I think, the only real way of helping this class of person with an eye to the future.

At Mandalay there were Public Works Department works on Public Works Department pay (which is good pay), and 1,417 persons were shipped from the district to these works, where they could earn the normal wage of the country, and where it was hoped that they would save money and return in due course to the district with a little savings and when their services are required by farmers in the future.

These persons were sent up by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamers, the Company generously taking them up for half fares. They left Myingyan with a ferry pass and eight annas in their pockets and on the third day they were at work at Mandalay. The subsistence allowance was reduced to four annas from 21st August 1897. Children were paid half subsistence allowance.

Under heading 3 it has only been found necessary to place two destitute old ladies on the list.

One is the daughter of a former Burmese Wun or Governor, and the other is the daughter of a deceased broker. They are both allowed Rs 5 per mensem for a limited period, and are thus saved the ignominy of applying with the incapable beggars for relief from the Government Circle Inspector.

Under heading 4 we have been enabled by the bounty of the fund to do much work in the way of recovering the district. It was impossible to help cultivators who had lost their all; that was out of the question, for when bullocks cost from 25 to 40 rupees a piece, it would have been unwise to help a few who required cattle at the expense of many who only required seed-grain or the means to subsist whilst they tended their growing crops. It was, therefore, decided to advance money for seed only, and to those who owned or could get cattle and land.

We dove-tailed these gifts for the purchase of seed-grain in with the Government grants under the Agricultural Loans Act to cultivators for the purchase of cattle, the difference of course being that the charitable money was a gift.

and the Government loans will be repaid with interest. This year R73,760 was given out as cattle advances by Government.

For the sowing of our early crops a sum of R20,000 was given to each Sub-divisional Officer for the purpose of distributing to the cultivators for the purchase of seed-grain. Only *bond fide* cultivators who own land and also cattle, or who are in a position to borrow cattle, were eligible to receive the seed advances. This is the most important of all our actions, but the trouble is not to find *bond fide* cultivators owning land and cattle, who have no grain to sow, or even if they have, have not the means to keep alive while they sow and tend their crops; our troubles are to select the few from the many worthy applicants. The difficulty was to name the few to receive the aid, and then these few had a difficulty to keep their money, as it was at first decided to give seed advances to only 10 per cent. of the households in each village. The result was that no sooner did a recipient get to his village, he was set upon by the others who demanded that the money be divided equally amongst those persons who did not get the aid. This matter came personally to Mr. Carey's notice when he was on tour, and he at once directed the local thugyi to recover and return to the recipients the money which other poor cultivators had wrung out of them.

The division took place by common consent. The money was not wasted: it went into the ground all right, or helped people to subsist whilst they cultivated. There has really been no harm done by this unauthorised division of money by the original recipients, but the practice has been discouraged. Having gained an experience in distributing seed advances for the early crops, another method of distributing seed advances for our late crops was adopted. R20,000 having been allotted for Myingyan Sub-division, and R18,000 for the Pagan Sub-division, the Sub-divisional Officers were directed to select certain villages for relief, and give each household in those villages who owned both land and plough cattle, or the means of getting them, R10 or R5 each as they might decide. By this method, but few villages will be assisted, but these will be assisted thoroughly and there will be no division of money as was done on the previous occasion.

The Sub-divisional Officer, Myingyan, only spent R19,990 out of the R20,000 allotted to his sub-division. The rains being propitious, the last R37,990 expended will do much to recover the district.

There has been a sum of R8,000 put by for the relief of orphans and for any similar object when the work of the Committee closes.

All the balance in hand is urgently needed for distribution to the cultivators of the district.

Of course, now that latterly the rains have been favourable, it is to be regretted that every anna was not put into the *kaukkyi* crops, but presumably the outlook at that time was so gloomy that it seemed to the Committee madness to risk all the money which had been entrusted to them in the one venture.

At present there is a balance in hand of R53,532-14-0.

This money is urgently required for the benefit of the following classes, and is being expended accordingly:—

- (a) Sums varying from R10 to R2-8-0 according to circumstances, to be paid to each *bond fide* family which leaves the famine works when the famine works are finally closed. This sum to help them to get up when thrown on their own resources.
- (b) Sums (to be fixed on receipt of reports from Sub-divisional Officers) to the late crop-workers who are hard put to it to tend their crops.
- (c) Sums (to be fixed on receipt of reports from Sub-divisional Officers) to selected cultivators of villages which have lost large numbers of cattle from disease, and owing to sale rendered imperative by scarcity.

When the payments have been made under these three heads, there will not be any balance left in hand, except the R8,000 which has been set aside for orphans, etc., and which will be expended from time to time as circumstances may require. If, as seems probable, the greater part of it will not be required

for orphans, the balance will go to increasing the amounts allotted under headings (a), (b), and (c) above.

In conclusion I beg, on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Myingyan District, to return sincere thanks to all their kind friends in all parts of the world who have contributed to alleviate their distress; large sums of money have been distributed, and a great amount of suffering relieved by the generous action of the contributors to the Indian and Burma Famine Relief Fund and those who have administered it, and I hope that by the middle of this month, with the aid of favourable rains, the famine will have entirely been eradicated from the district of Myingyan.

Letter from the Deputy Commissioner, MEIKTILA, to the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Rangoon, No. 2899, dated the 19th November 1897.

I have the honour to submit the statements prescribed by Circular X Q, dated 16th September 1897, showing accounts of expenditure of the Famine Fund from the commencement till the 31st October, and a report as prescribed in paragraph 7 of the circular.

(a) The whole of this district, in area 2,178.39 square miles, was declared by the Local Government to be distressed. As soon as earthwork on the Meiktila-Myingyan branch railway was started on the 1st November 1896, people flocked to it from all parts of the district, and it would be difficult to point out any portion of the district that was not distressed at that time. There had been failure of rains in 1895, and distress that year was averted only because of the years 1893 and 1894 being such good years. When, therefore, the early rains of 1896 were deficient, and the late rains upon which the people generally depend failed altogether, there could be nothing but severe famine, and for the following six months the numbers on the relief works were pretty well up to the maximum for which provision is made in a time of famine. The principal crops of this district are sessamum, cotton, paddy and jowar, and for the two years 1895 and 1896 the outturn in annas was as follows:—

1895—

Sessamum	2 annas.
Cotton	4 annas.
Paddy	8 annas.
Jowar	4 annas.

1896—

Sessamum	8 annas.
Cotton	10 annas.
Paddy	3 annas.
Jowar	2 annas.

The numbers on the famine works were undoubtedly less than they would otherwise have been, owing to numbers of people going to Lower Burma in November and December to reap paddy according to the usual custom. Owing to a bumper season in Lower Burma the numbers of emigrants were more than usual.

Those who possessed cattle likewise sent large numbers down for sale, and hoped to procure a means of livelihood in that way. In several cases the cattle were sold for small sums, and those who were responsible for the sale suffered losses and got into debt.

(b) A District Famine Committee was formed on the 13th February 1897. It was found unnecessary to form Sub-Committees, as $\frac{1}{10}$ of the expenditure was under head IV, distribution of grants of Rs to cultivators to buy seed. The sub-divisional officers, with the help of the township and circle officers, were

the distributing agents. A great impetus was given to the cultivation of all the four principal crops in the district by means of this money, though, undoubtedly, a part was used by the cultivators for themselves and their families to live on. The Rs 5 was in several cases sub-divided among other poor cultivators whose names had not been included in the lists. The distribution of the fund in this way prevented its clashing with Government relief. The Government supported all people included in the lists under section 57 of the Famine Code, who, in India, would have been admitted into poor houses. It was only at the close of the famine at the end of October that sums of Rs 5 were given from the Famine Fund as valedictory doles to all who had been receiving Government gratuitous relief up to that period. Rupees 8,100 was distributed to 1,620 persons under this head. Rupees 4,606 was spent under Head I in purchasing "tamains"* and "longyis"* and distributing them among the poorly clad people on the relief works, as well as in villages in the district. The garments were purchased in local bazars thus rendering help to poor weavers.

(c) The only other kind of relief granted which has not been mentioned above is the payment of railway fares to coolies wishing to go and work on the Mandalay Canal before it was declared to be a Government relief work, after which date Government paid the expenses of drafting. This kind of relief was not started till July when it was hoped that people might be tempted away from the relief works in the district and start on their own account in Mandalay. However, very few people took advantage of this privilege. The numbers were 388 altogether. In May there occurred an epidemic of cholera in Aingtha village, 6 miles to the west of Wundwin, and there were over 100 deaths out of a population of 400 people. Most of the people who suffered had returned home for a short time from the relief works and it was found that other villages would not take them in and they could not get food. The sub-divisional officer, Wundwin, accordingly bought Rs 50 worth of rice and distributed it among 101 villagers of Aingtha. On Jubilee day, the 22nd June, it was thought that a dinner to the poor in Meiktila, where several people from the district had crowded in to witness a Gymkhana given by the Commissioner, would be an appropriate ending to the festivities. Rupees 100 was spent and 600 people fed.

Rupees 41-2-3 was spent by Mr. Moran, Executive Engineer, and Maung Aung Thein, Myook on famine duty, in paying for comforts for women confined on the relief works. This was paid out of the sum of Rs 200 sent from Rangoon before the Provincial Committee allotted any funds, and the expenditure has been included only in this month's accounts, having been kept separate from the expenditure out of the Famine Fund proper. Rupees 150 out of Rs 200 was spent on the purchase of blankets and clothes for the poor very soon after the money was received. The balance of the expenditure was on contingencies such as cart-hire for sending out money into the interior to be distributed.

(d) Relief works were closed in the district at the end of October, but the balance of Rs 324-6-9 is being spent, together with an allotment of Rs 3,500 since received, in distributing sums of Rs 5 to poor cultivators to buy seed for the dry weather crops in villages where crops were destroyed by the floods of August into Meiktila Lake, and such villages as Aingtha, which have not yet recovered from the famine and will have to be exempted from taxation for this year. The District Committee, therefore, has not yet been dissolved.

* Womens' and mens' cloths.

(Sd.) A. T. A. SHAW,
Deputy Commissioner, Meiktila.

FORM B.

BURMA PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to 31st October 1897.

Number of persons relieved Printed in antique type.

OBJECT I.

REMARKS.

A.—CLOTHING, BLANKETS, ETC., TO PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF, WHETHER IN POOR-HOUSES, KITCHENS, OR OUTSIDE.

(i) number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given :—

Number of persons.

(a) the cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee 17,080

Total number of persons 17,080

(1) expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (a) above R a. p. 8,053 3 0

(2) how much from petty shopkeepers 3,909 2 0

(ii) Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief—

R a. p.

(a) Total amount so expended 361 0 0

(b) Period during which it was expended, 25th January 1897 to 31st October 1897.

(c) Total number of payments made 152

(d) Average number per month or fortnight (according as the dole was monthly or fortnightly) of persons whose dole was increased 15

D.—OTHER RELIEF UNDER HEADING "OBJECT I"—such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief Works or to their own villages. Grants made to poor people out of relief officers' imposts.

No.
Meiktila 12,702
Myingyan 4,328

R a. p.
Meiktila 4,144 1 0
Myingyan 3,909 2 0
Myingyan.

Entirely in Yamethin. Includes 12 persons paid in January 1897.

Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.
(I) Railway fare for 15 adult coolies drafted to Mandalay Canal Works	R a. p. 17 8 0	15
(II) Railway fare for one child	0 10 0	
(III) Purchase of rice for Aingtha villagers	50 0 0	101
(IV) Railway fare for 17 coolies drafted to Mandalay Canal Works	20 0 0	17
(V) Railway fare for 356 coolies	233 2 0	356
(VI) Jubilee dinner to poor on 22nd June 1897	100 0 0	600
(VII) Other relief under D.	41 2 3	40
TOTAL	462 6 3	1,129
(1) Distribution of condensed milk and Triticine food	1-7-97 to 30-10-97	Not known	414
	414

Entirely in Meiktila.

Myingyan.

OBJECT III.

—MONEY DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD—

- (i) period during which this relief was given 3 months.
- (ii) number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of dole 13
- (iii) rates of the doles
 { 1 @ R 5 Myingyan .
 { 12 @ R 30 Meiktila .
- (iv) at what intervals given Lump sum.
- (v) amount expended R 375

REMARKS.

Myingyan.	
{ Myingyan	1
{ Meiktila	12
	R
{ Myingyan	15
{ Meiktila	360

—CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS—

- (i) Number and localities of grain shops

OBJECT IV.

—ASSISTANCE WHERE ONLY MONEY GRANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PROVISION OF CATTLE, SEED-GRAIN, ETC., TO CULTIVATORS—

- (i) number of cultivators assisted— 38,883
- (ii) number assisted by gifts of seed-grain alone 38,883

NOTE.—Each head of a family is only counted once even if his gift covers various items of expenditure.

	R	a.	p.		No.
(ii) amount of gifts made	2,08,633	0	0	{ Yamethin	7,289
				{ Meiktila	20,323
				{ Myingyan	11,271
(iv) how much for purchase of seed-grain	2,08,633	0	0	Details as above.	

—OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER HEADING "OBJECT IV"—

Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.
		R a. p.	
alimentary doles . . . . .	...	8,100 0 0	1,620
eamer fares and subsistence allowance of labourers sent to Mandalay Canal Works to earn higher wages	7-6-97 to 6-9-97	1,653 8 0	1,417

Meiktila.

Myingyan R1,655-4 were originally paid out, but R2-4 were subsequently refunded by coolies who did not go to Mandalay.

OBJECT V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

- (a) Office and contingent expenditure R 139 9 0
- (b) Printing 9 14 0

TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER ALL THE OBJECTS R . 2,27,787 S 3

Meiktila, cart-hire for conveyance money R10-2.
Provincial Committee contingent expenses R129-7.

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BURMA.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.	Amount.		EXPENDITURE.		Amount.
	R	a. p.	R	a. p.	R
1. Opening balance—			1. Under Object I		8,876 9 3
2. Remittances from Central Committee—			2. Ditto II		Nil
(a) From General Fund			3. Ditto III		375 0 0
3. Local subscriptions for the Province—			4. Ditto IV		2,18,386 8 0
(a) Collected directly by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee	15,271	4 7	5. Miscellaneous—		
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use (<i>vide</i> Form D, column 2)	1,178	14 0	(a) Provincial Committee	132 8 0	
(c) Collected by District Committees and remitted direct to other districts in Burma	200	0 0	Bank of Bengal	6 13 0	
4. Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—			(b) District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 5)	10 2 0	
(a) Provincial Committee—			6. Closing Balances—		149 7 0
(b) District Committees	1	0 0	(a) With Provincial Committee—		
(c) Refund of amount paid on account of gifts for seed-grain, but recovered in connection with a criminal case R. I. v. Nga Maw, Yame-thin	20	0 0	(i) Bank of Bengal	15,064 7 7	
(d) Refunded by cooly gaung, Myingyan	0	8 0	(ii) Auditor	50 0 0	
			(iii) Honorary Secretary	17 8 0	
			(b) With District Committees (<i>vide</i> Form E, column 7)	54,752 2 9	69,884 2 4
			TOTAL R	2,97,671 10 7	2,97,671 10 7

* In addition to this amount the sum of Rs25,000 was remitted by the Central Committee on the 27th October 1897, and acknowledged by the Burma Provincial Committee under date the 3rd November 1897.

W. F. NOYCE,

Honorary Secretary,

Burma Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BURMA.

Statement of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS,	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening Balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Yamethin . . . .	...	1,178 14 0	41,600 0 0	20 0 0	42,798 14 0
2	Meiktila . . . .	...	...	1,02,500 0 0	1 0 0	1,02,501 0 0
3	Myingyan . . . .	...	...	1,37,100 0 0	0 8 0	1,37,100 8 0
	TOTAL R .	...	1,178 14 0	2,81,200 0 0	21 8 0	2,82,400 6 0

W. F. NOYCE,

Honorary Secretary,

Burma Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BURMA.

Statement of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

PAYMENTS.

	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
		Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object II.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balances.	TOTAL.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Yamethin	361 0 0	...	...	41,543 0 0	...	41,904 0 0	894 14 0	42,798 14 0
2	Meiktila	4,606 7 3	...	360 0 0	97,200 0 0	10 2 0	1,02,176 9 3	324 6 9	1,02,501 0 0
3	Myingyan	3,909 2 0	...	15 0 0	79,643 8 0	...	83,567 10 0	53,532 14 0	1,37,100 8 0
	TOTAL R .	8,876 9 3	...	375 0 0	2,18,386 8 0	10 2 0	2,27,648 3 3	54,752 2 9	2,82,400 6 0

W. F. NOYCE,

Honorary Secretary,

Burma Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

No. 1119 of 1898.

FROM

F. S. BULLOCK, ESQ., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts,

TO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,

Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Calcutta.

Dated Amraoti, the 14th February 1898.

I have the honour to forward the report of the Honorary Secretaries of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, for the information of the Central Committee.

2. Messrs. Bandhuji Janardhan and R. N. Mudholker have, from the date of the formation of the Fund, given their services voluntarily and unsparingly as Secretaries of the Local Central Committee. Their work has been by no means light, and they have accomplished their task very satisfactorily.

3. The report is so full that I need add but little to it, beyond expressing the grateful thanks of the Administration for the liberality with which the Central Committee has treated Berar. I may also say, I think, that the allotments of the Central Committee have been spent honestly and strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules on the four objects to which charitable relief was ordered to be applied; and that there has been no misapplication of the funds at our disposal. The value of these allotments towards the relief of the poor famine-stricken inhabitants of the Melghat and the wanderers from the Central Provinces, and the orphans left by the famine, cannot be overstated.

4. Of the total allotment of Rs. 1,10,000 more than half was spent in the Melghat, and I am convinced that without this contribution many hundreds of the poor inhabitants of the Melghat would have perished, and many more would still have been destined to beg their bread instead of being enabled to resume their normal occupations.

5. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has enabled many a District Officer to step in at the right moment and save lives, provide for orphans and restore the famine paupers to a life of usefulness, when they would otherwise have succumbed to the pressure of the famine.

6. The heartfelt thanks of the people of Berar, and the officers who had to administer to their needs, are tendered to the Central Committee, and through it to the people of England and other countries who have so opportunely come to the aid of India in her troubles.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

F. S. BULLOCK,

Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

No. 644 of 1898.

FROM

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES,
FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
BERAR,

TO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,
INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,
CALCUTTA.

*Through the Commissioner, Hyderabad
Assigned Districts, Amraoti.*

Dated Amraoti, the 14th February 1898.

With reference to paragraph 8 of your Circular No. X. Q., dated the 16th September 1897, we have the honour, by direction of the President of the Executive Committee, to submit herewith—

(a) A statement (Form C) accompanied by expansions D and E showing details of Form C by Districts.

(b) A report (with a tabular statement in Form B attached thereto) which deals briefly with the several points referred to in paragraph 7 of your Circular above quoted, up to 31st October 1897.

2. With reference to your Circular U. B. of the 7th December 1897, we are to state that a sum of Rs. 2,500 is due by us to the District Committee of Ellichpur, and that the balance with us, excluding the unspent balances with the District Committees of Akola and Amraoti, which have not been returned yet, is Rs. 1,615-9-9. But this sum with the Amraoti and Akola balances when received, will almost all be spent in meeting the Ellichpur demand, and there will remain little to be remitted to the Central Committee, Calcutta. We shall let you know shortly what precise balance has been left with us.

3. As regards the figures of receipts and expenditure from 1st November 1897 to 31st January 1898, called for in your Circular X. S., dated the 28th January 1898 (received by us on the 11th instant), we are to mention that on receipt of your telegram dated 8th instant we wired to the several District Committees to send us the necessary information with the least delay practicable. As soon as we receive it we shall send it to you.

4. We are to add that in order to avoid further delay, we are sending the Report before its adoption by the Members of the Executive Committee, but that if any additions or amendments are made by them at their meeting on Wednesday next, we shall communicate them to you.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servants,

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,
R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

Honorary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Berar.

Report of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

1. *Physical conditions of the Province of Berar.*—The following extract from Hunter's *Imperial Gazetteer of India* correctly represents, in general terms, the physical conditions of the Province of Berar:—

"The Province of Berar comprises the six districts of Akola, Buldana,

* These districts are sub-divided into taluks as shown below:—

DISTRICT.	TALUKS.
Amraoti . . .	{ 1. Amraoti. 2. Morsi. 3. Chandur. 4. Murtizapur.
Akola . . .	{ 1. Akola. 2. Akote. 3. Balapur. 4. Khamgaon. 5. Jalgaon.
Ellichpur . . .	{ 1. Ellichpur. 2. Daryapur. 3. Melghat.
Buldana . . .	{ 1. Mulkapur. 2. Chikhli. 3. Mehkar.
Wun . . .	{ 1. Yeotmal. 2. Wun. 3. Kelapur. 4. Darwa.
Basim . . .	{ 1. Basim. 2. Margrul. 3. Pusad.

"Basim, Amraoti, Ellichpur, and Wun.*

"It is bounded on the north and east by

"the Central Provinces, on the south by

"the Nizam's Dominions, and on the

"west by the Bombay Presidency.

"Berar is in the main, a broad valley,

"running east and west, lying between

"the Satpura range on the north and

"the Ajanta range on the south. The

"real strength of the province is found

"in the valley at the base of the Satpura.

"This valley is watered or drained, as

"the case may be, by the Purna (an

"affluent of the Tapti) and a perfect

"network of streams descending into the

"main river, both from the hills in the

"north and from the hills in the south.

"Its soil is one vast superstratum of

"black loam overlying trap and basalt.

"Its rainfall is regular and copious; its

"area is now almost entirely cultivated,

"nearly the whole surface being covered over at harvest time by a sheet of crops. Its population is dense, and consists of Kunbis and other hardy and industrious agricultural castes. It is traversed from the west to east for the greater part of its breadth by the railway from Nagpur to Bhusawal and Bombay. It possesses one of the richest and most extensive cotton-fields in India and several cotton marts of the first rank. Its other products, especially millets and oil-seeds, are also excellent. Altogether, it is one of the most promising regions in India, and in respect to natural and material advantages, it surpasses any tract in either the Central Provinces or the Deccan.

"The area of Berar may be reckoned at a little more than 17,700 square miles. Its length from east to west is about 150 miles, and its breadth averages 144 miles. The principal rivers are the Tapti, the Purna, the Wardha, and the Penganga or Pranhita. The Tapti is the only river of the first class, but the Wardha is by far the most important as commanding the drainage and irrigation.

"The climate differs very little from that of the Deccan generally, except that in the valley the hot weather is sometimes exceptionally severe. It sets in early, for the freshness of the short cold season disappears with the crops, when the ground has been laid bare by carrying the harvest; but the heat does not much increase until the end of March. From the 1st of May until the rains set in, about the middle of June, the sun is very powerful, though its effect is not intensified by the scorching winds of Upper India. The nights are comparatively cool throughout, probably because the direct rays of the sun have their influence counteracted by the retentiveness of moisture peculiar to the black soil, and by the evaporation which is always going on. During the rains, the air is moist and cool."

2. *Nature and relative importance of the crops grown.*—Of the entire area under cultivation the proportion per cent. allotted to each of the principal crops during the years 1895-96 and 1896-97 was as follows:—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
Jowari (great millet)	37'1	39'2
Cotton	30'0	36'0
Wheat	11'1	6'2
Gram	3'0	3'1
Linseed	7'4	3'4

3. *Economic condition of the people.*—As will be seen from the table given in the next section, the population of Berar consists chiefly of agriculturists and agricultural labourers. Indigenous industries there are few. The chief trade of Berar with outside is in cotton and, in a much less degree, in wheat and linseed. The bulk of the cotton grown in the Province is taken to Bombay for consumption in the local mills there, or for export to Europe. There is one spinning and weaving mill at Badnera, and there are a number of ginning factories and cotton presses doing a flourishing business not only in important trade centres like Amraoti, Khamgaon, and Akola but even in remote and out of the way places like Chikhli, Barud and Anjangaon-Surji. With all this, however, the population of Berar is mainly dependent on land. The soil is one of the richest and most fertile in India, and one would certainly expect great advance in material prosperity of the bulk of the population. It is undeniable that such an advance did take place in the earlier period of the British administration. It is equally undeniable that a great deterioration in the condition of the agricultural population has taken place during the last 15 or 20 years. Why this deterioration should have taken place, how far it is due to natural causes, how far to any faults in the people themselves and in their manners and customs, how far to revenue system and the operation of Civil Laws and the Civil Courts, are matters which lie outside the scope of this report. But the fact remains that the Berar Kunbi is not what he was before, that he is fast losing the independent position that he held at one time, that his indebtedness is increasing, and that a very great portion of the land is passing from the cultivating classes to the money-lending and other non-cultivating classes.

4. *Chief occupation of the people.*—The population of Berar, according to the census of 1881, is 2,897,491. The distribution of the population by occupation is shown in the following table of percentages:—

CLASS.	
A.—Government	3'05
B.—Pasture and agriculture	69'76
C.—Personal services	2'50
D.—Preparation and supply of material substances	13'88
E.—Commerce, transport and storage	2'84
F.—Profession	1'38
G.—Indefinite and independent	6'59
	<hr/>
	100'0
	<hr/>

It will be seen from the above table that nearly three-fourths of the population belong to the class denominated "Pasture and agriculture," a class which consists chiefly of people having interest in land and those engaged in agricultural labour.

Writing on this subject in his report on the famine in Berar, the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, says:—

"The population of Berar is almost entirely agricultural—whether as occupants of land, or tenants of land, or farm servants, or agricultural labourers, by far the largest proportion of the total population is connected with agriculture. The towns in Berar are small but chiefly devoted to the cotton trade. In almost every district there are several steam cotton presses and ginning factories, and the cotton industry is the chief feature of the Province, depending as it does on the cultivation of cotton. The various districts differ, however, according to their density of population in the degree of indebtedness or independence of the agricultural units.

"In the thickly populated parts of Amraoti, Akola, and Ellichpur, the occupier of land often is really the labourer, and the land is pledged to the money-lender; while in Basim, Wun and Buldana the occupant of land is more independent and is really better off.

"The following figures give some idea of the proportion of the agricultural labouring classes in each district, and the percentage of those really interested in agriculture to the total population:—

District.	Population.	Land occupants not cultivating.	Land occupants cultivating.	Tenants cultivating.	Farm servants.	Field labourers.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 2.	Percentage of Cols. 4, 5, 6, 7 to Col. 2.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Amraoti	655,645	3,994	132,924	41,808	27,027	246,505	37.5	68.3
Akola	574,782	2,360	145,124	60,009	10,775	169,010	29.4	66.9
Ellichpur	315,798	1,348	68,366	25,294	8,817	95,723	30.3	62.7
Buldana	481,021	476	129,650	74,885	8,103	112,315	23.3	67.5
Wun	471,613	2,021	75,046	64,642	46,497	154,846	32.8	72.3
Basim	398,181	768	91,575	77,227	7,374	99,641	25	69.2
	2,897,040	10,967	642,685	343,865	108,593	878,040	30.3	68.1

"It will be seen that the proportion of the population interested in land as agriculturists and labourers to the total population is no less than 68 per cent., varying from 72.3 in Wun, to 62.7 in Ellichpur; while the field labourers are 37 per cent. of the total population in Amraoti, and 30 per cent. is the average for Berar; but looking to the details, it will be seen that the districts of Basim and Buldana show a much smaller proportion of labourers, and the pressure would fall less heavily on these districts than in those in which labourers prevail."

5. *Special customs.*—There is nothing to note under this head. The people of Berar, as a rule, do not leave their homes every year for a time for employment elsewhere.

With regard to the people of the Melghat, the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, writes as follows:—

"This taluk lies to the north of Berar. It is bounded on the north by a portion of the Betul district in the Central Provinces, and is separated by the river Tapti from Nimar; on the west by Betul, and on the east by Nimar and the river Tapti. Its area is about 1,650 square miles, and it is simply a section of the Satpura range of hills.

"The surface is rugged and hilly, rising to a ridge which attains a height of 3,800 feet and runs from east to west along the southern border with a succession of ridges and plateaus, with slopes to the valley of the Tapti on the north and east side. This large tract of country is populated chiefly by Korkus and Gonds, indigenous tribes, who live by wood and grass-cutting, and collecting forest produce. The population at the last census was about 47,000. It consists of the poorest and most degraded classes, who live from hand to mouth, have no resources, and who hate any work but forest labour. In this taluk there were practically no stores of grain, and the people were dependent on the Ellichpur and Akola markets for food-supplies. Their crops failed completely, and they had neither money nor resources of any kind. The demand for forest produce, bamboos, and timber fell off; and from the first it was evident that the Melghat would be a most anxious charge. The people were quite helpless, except that by custom and habit they could live on roots and herbs, the flower of the mowha tree, and such like sustenance, which a more civilized class would have rejected. But, unfortunately, even these natural and indigenous supplies were short owing to the failure of the rains and soon came to an end, and the people were thrown on the charity of the Government."

6. *Area in which there was distress.*—High prices having prevailed everywhere, it may be said that distress to a greater or less extent was felt all over the Province. But it was in the Melghat taluk of the Ellichpur district, and in a large portion of the Akola district; as also in parts of the Buldana district, that the pressure of famine was at its highest. In the Melghat taluk, which is inhabited by aboriginal tribes, there was a failure of crops for two years in succession, and the people were in the last stage of destitution. In those tracts of the Akola and Buldana districts where the distress was most keenly felt, the soil is bad and the people are in particularly needy circumstances. The nature and extent of the distress which prevailed in the Province may be judged from a comparison of the average prices of food-grains in each month of the famine

period, with the average prices in the corresponding month of the two preceding years, as shown in the following table:—

District.	January.			February.			March.			April.			May.			June.			July.			August.			September.			October.			November.			December.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
Amraoti . . .	20-0	19-0	10-4	20-0	20-0	9-12	20-0	21-0	8-0	20-0	20-0	9-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	19-0	20-0	8-8	19-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8-8	20-0	20-0	8

But in this connection the remarks made by the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, in his report on the famine in Berar, might appropriately be quoted at length as follows :—

“As regards the general pressure of the famine, I would divide Berar into four tracts :—

- (1) The Hilly tract of the Satpura Hills, north of Ellichpur and Akote,
 “which constitute the Melghat taluk of the Ellichpur district, in-
 “habited almost entirely by Korkus, Gonds and other tribes of the
 “poorest and least civilized classes, who depend for their daily food
 “on fitful labour in the forests and natural products, who had no
 “resources and no stocks. Here the famine was real.
- (2) The two plains taluks of Ellichpur, and the Amraoti and Wun
 “districts, corresponding to East Berar, where the crops were fair,
 “stocks good, but prices high. Here there was distress from high
 “prices.
- (3) The Akola district and the Malkapur taluk of the Buldana district.
 “The failure of the rains and of the crops was most complete, the
 “stocks were low, the condition of the people bad, and prices very
 “high. This tract suffered most after the Melghat, and there was
 “famine both of food and prices.
- (4) The uplands of Berar formed by the Basim district and the Mehkar
 “and Chikhli taluks of Buldana, where the rains failed and the
 “crops suffered badly, and there would have been more distress
 “but for the fact that they are agricultural districts with fewer
 “labourers, and there was a fairly good crop in the adjoining dis-
 “tricts of the dominions of His Highness the Nizam.”

7. *Nature and extent of the failure of the harvest of 1896-97.*—The following table shows the estimated outturn per acre during 1896-97, as compared with the statistics of the three preceding years :—

DISTRICT.	JOWARI (GREAT MILLET).				COTTON.				WHEAT.				GRAM.				LINSEED.				
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
Amraoti .	mds. s. mds. s. mds. s.	3 31	3 23	3 10	2 2	1 32	1 10	3 11	1 18	3 5	2 11	1 38	0 33	2 7	1 29	1 15	0 35	1 34	0 33	1 12	0 25
Akola .	2 2	2 25	3 16	1 1	1 7	0 38	2 9	2 9	1 10	2 37	2 21	1 9	0 10	2 5	1 31	1 20	0 32	1 16	1 2	1 12	0 6
Ellichpur .	5 23	4 10	5 18	5 15	1 16	1 9	2 16	2 16	1 34	5 8	5 4	2 32	1 27	2 10	2 5	1 33	1 1	1 17	2 39	1 19	1 4
Melghat .	3 0	3 0	3 0	0 30	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	0 30	2 0	1 0	2 0	0 20	2 0	2 0	2 0	0 20	2 0	1 0	2 0	...
Buldana .	2 21	2 16	3 22	0 37	1 8	0 33	1 22	1 22	0 26	3 21	3 2	1 29	0 22	2 17	2 30	2 9	0 27	1 16	0 35	1 16	0 8
Wun .	1 11	2 14	3 4	1 23	2 3	1 22	1 37	1 37	1 6	1 36	2 3	1 19	0 32	1 20	1 2	1 18	0 26	0 38	0 18	1 7	0 26
Basim .	2 5	1 25	2 18	1 13	1 0	0 27	1 14	1 14	0 26	1 25	1 30	1 19	0 11	0 22	1 26	1 23	0 36	1 7	1 16	0 38	0 4

These estimates are not very reliable, but they suffice to show that there was a general failure of the harvests during 1896-97.

In his report on the famines in Berar, the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigend Districts, writes on the subject as follows :—

“ The season of 1895-96 in Berar from an agriculturist's point of view was very favourable. The cotton crop was an exceptionally heavy one, and though prices of cotton were not very good, still the remarkably large outturn had brought unusual prosperity to all occupants of land, and it was notorious that debts had been paid to a great extent, and that people were in a very prosperous condition at the beginning of the year 1896. The jowari crop was, perhaps, not more than an average one, and in the Akola and Melghat district, where there was too little rain and light soil, it was below the average ; but on the whole up to June 1896 the condition of the people in Berar may be described as exceptionally good. When, therefore, the rains of 1896 set in as usual, and after a short break, continued perhaps more favourably than usual, cultivation of both jawari and cotton began on a very extensive scale, and by the beginning of August everything pointed to a bumper crop of jowari and cotton. The rains continued to fall heavily, and there was no suspicion of a failure. But suddenly and inexplicably the rains ceased about the 25th of August; from that date there was practically no good rain in Berar till the following June. Throughout the months of September and October rain was anxiously looked for in vain, and the crops gradually dried up, first in the light and stony soils but eventually to a more or less extent in the rich black soil of the valleys.

“ The failure of the kharif, however, was by no means general, for in some good villages where there was deep black soil which retained moisture, it is wonderful how good the outturn eventually was. Generally speaking, it may be said that the crops in the Wun district, the Ellichpur district, except in the Melghat taluk, and in the three Eastern taluks of the Amraoti district were fair though below the average, but both cotton and jowari gave sufficient to provide amply for the population. In the two Northern taluks of Akola, Akote and Jalgaon, there was also a fair crop though not quite so good as in Ellichpur. But all the rest of Berar suffered very heavily from the sudden cessation of the rains, and three taluks of the Akola district, and Malkapur in the Buldana district, were perhaps the most complete failure in the kharif, though Basim and the Southern taluks of Buldana also had a very poor harvest. But unluckily the trouble did not end here because by the time the sowing of the rabi crop ought to have commenced, the land was hard and dry, and the wheat, linseed and gram failed to germinate, and then slight and partial showers that fell in November scarcely sufficed to moisten the soil, except in parts of Amraoti and Ellichpur.

“ The greater part of Berar depends on the cotton and jowari crop, and strange to say the cotton crop seems to thrive with a very small amount of rain, and on the whole the outturn of cotton was fair though well below the average. The jowari crop varied from 10 annas in the best taluks to 2 and 3 annas in the worst. But the rabi crops may, I think, be described as a total failure. The Mehkar taluk in the Buldana district has usually a very large area under wheat and gram, but last year the greater part of the land reserved for the rabi was not even sown, and what was sown produced but little. Similarly, in Basim and Chikhli, the results were even worse, and in the plains taluks of the Berar Valley there was a very small area sown and little or nothing produced in the majority of cases, but perhaps the most complete failure was in the Melghat taluk of the Ellichpur district.”

8. *Organisation of Charitable Relief.*—Before the formation of the Indian Famine Fund, charitable relief was being administered by the wealthier classes in almost every district of Berar. At Amraoti a poor-house was opened on the 5th December 1896 and was kept open up to the 31st October 1897. The number fed at this institution daily ranged from 150, when it was newly opened, to 2,500, when distress was at its highest. The institution was managed by a Committee of influential gentlemen, and subscriptions, amounting to over Rs.8,000, were collected for its maintenance. The total number of persons relieved at the Amraoti poor-house is said to have reached 241,294. At Murtiza-

pur in the same district a poor-house was opened on the 4th of January, for which subscriptions, amounting to nearly Rs.5,000, were collected. The number of persons relieved is reported to have been 166,453. In addition to the two poor-houses mentioned above, charitable relief was being administered by many benevolent native gentlemen in several other important centres of the district.

The table below gives particulars of the charitable relief afforded in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts:—

Name of town or village.	Nature of relief given.	Number relieved.	Names of the principal benefactors and helpers.
<i>Amraoti District.</i>			
Amraoti . . .	Poor-house at which cooked food was distributed daily.	241,294	Mr. F. S. Bullock, Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, Mr. A. Lucas, Deputy Commissioner, Amraoti, Mr. A. Elliott, Civil and Sessions Judge, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, Bank of Bombay, Rao Saheb Rambilas, Dr. R. N. Mudholker, Messrs. R. N. Mudholker, M. V. Joshi, Pleaders, Mr. B. J. Chaobal, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Narayan Singh Babutsing, Tahsildar.
Murtizapur . . .	Poor-house at which cooked and uncooked food was distributed daily.	166,453	Messrs. Mulji Jetha and Co., and Mr. Dorabji Cowasji, Special Magistrate.
Do.	Daily distribution of cooked food.	From 200 to 250 daily.	Messrs. Mulji Jetha and Co.
Karinja . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Januna . . .	Ditto	From 50 to 60 daily.	Deorao Champutrao.
Dhanora Fasi . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Bhagwanji Vishnaji Patel.
Ganora . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Sonaji Patel.
Chandas . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Anandrao Tukaram Deshmukh.
Belura . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Shivaram Vasudeo Patwari.
Rithpur . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Ramrao Patel.
Teusa . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Ganeshdas Kundanmal Saükar.
Dhamangaon . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Hiralal Ramgopal.
Mozri . . .	Ditto	Ditto	Chandrabhan Raoji Patel.
Talegaon Dasesa-asrha.	Ditto	Ditto	Khajulal Rampratab.
Teusa . . .	Poor-house for distribution of cooked food.	From 170 to 190 daily.	Ganeshdas Kundanmul and Hiralal Ramgopal.

Name of town or village.	Nature of relief given.	Number relieved.	Names of the principal benefactors and helpers.
Akola District.			
No information supplied.			
Ellichpur District.			
Ellichpur Civil Station.	Daily distribution of uncooked food.	2,082	Mr. Godwin-Austen, Deputy Commissioner, Ellichpur.
Ellichpur City .	Daily distribution of cooked food.	Not stated	Wealthy merchants and others, names not given.
Chandur Bazaar .			
Anjangaon .			
Daryapur .			
Buldana District.			
Malkapur . . .	Cheap grain shops.	Not given	Captain R. P. Colomb, Deputy Commissioner Khan Bahadur Nawab Salla Mulla Khan, Khaja Abdul Baki Khan, Vishnusa Balkrishnasa, Wamon Renko, Sakharam Appa, and others.
Nandura . . .			
Pimpalgaon Raja			
Mehkar . . .			
Fatehkherda .			
Dongaon . . .			
Janephal . . .			
Lonar . . .			
Lonigowli . .			
Ghatbori . .			
Dewalgaon Sakirsha.			
Chikhli . . .			
Ditto . . .	Daily distribution of cooked food.	Ditto	Rampratap Ramnarayen and Gopalsa Krishnasa.
Denegaon Raja .	Ditto	Ditto	Balaji's Temple.
Buldana . . .	Cheap grain shop	Ditto	Captain R. P. Colomb, Deputy Commissioner, Khan Bahadur Muhamad Salamulla Khan, and others.
Wun District.			
No information supplied.			
Basim District.			
Basim . . .	Cheap grain shops	Not stated	Not stated.
Pusad . . .			
Mangrul . . .			
Risd . . .			

In pursuance of instructions received from the Resident at Hyderabad, a public meeting was held at Amraoti on the 12th March 1897 to consider what steps should be taken to organize charitable relief in this Province. The meeting was presided over by Mr. F. S. Bullock, I.C.S., Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

A subscription list was opened, and Rs. 12,142 were subscribed on the spot. A strong Provincial Committee was then formed with power to add to their number, and we were appointed Honorary Secretaries. This Committee at its first meeting held on the 15th of March 1897, appointed an Executive Committee consisting of eight gentlemen to work out and manage the Fund; with Messrs. R. N. Mudholkar and Bhanduji Janardan as Honorary Secretaries to carry out the object of the Fund. The Agent of the Amraoti Branch of the Bank of Bombay was appointed Honorary Treasurer. The Deputy Commissioners were requested to form District and Local Committees for collecting subscriptions and administering relief according to the instructions of the Government of India under the direction and supervision of the Provincial Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee used to meet every week when the distress was acute, but subsequently it met only when there was any business of importance to be transacted. The Executive Committee held 16 meetings in all up to the end of October. But on several occasions the opinions of the members were obtained by circulating papers with the suggestions of the President or of the Secretaries.

There was no separate District Committee for the Amraoti District, as it was arranged that the business should be managed by the Executive Members of the Central Committee. In this district each taluk was divided into a certain number of relief circles, and the business connected with each circle was entrusted to a Sub-Committee, of which the Tahsildar was Chairman. At Amraoti itself a separate Sub Committee was appointed for the sole purpose of supervising the working of a cheap grain shop. Relief was also distributed in the district through the agency of the district Forest Officer and the Hospital Assistants in charge of outlying Charitable Dispensaries. All the Sub-Committees commenced the work of giving relief on or about the 15th April 1897.

At Akola a District Committee consisting of the following members was formed on the 18th March 1897 and 10 Sub-Committees were appointed to administer relief throughout the district :—

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Mr. F. W. A. PRIDEAUX, Deputy Commissioner. | } Honorary Secretaries |
| " R. GALLOWAY, District Superintendent of Police. | |
| " SHEIK MUHAMAD ISMAIL, Extra Assistant Commissioner. | |
| " EDULJI SANJANA, Extra Assistant Commissioner. | |
| RAO SAHEB DEOROO VINAYEK. | |
| Mr. D. G. PATWARDHAN. | |
| " D. V. BHAGWAT. | |
| " L. G. DESHPANDE, Tahsildar. | |
| " SALIM KHAN. | |
| " PRAYAGJI, of Messrs. MULJI JETHA. | |
| " JAIKRISHNA BAGAJI. | |
| " PANDURANG BAPUJI. | |
| " DEORAO JAIKRISHNA. | |
| " V. A. KANE, Tahsildar. | |
| " GABOO SING. | |
| " GHULAM HUSEN. | |
| " NURUDDIN KAZI. | |
| " MARUTI NAIK. | |
| " KISAN DAYAL. | |
| " ABDUL KUDUS, Tahsildar. | |
| " PAPATLAL PARASHRAM. | |
| " NYAMAT KHAN. | |
| " SAKHARAM JAIKRISHNA. | |
| " MADHORAO AUNARAO, Tahsildar. | |

MR. AMRIT GOPAL.
 „ RENUKADAS of Tunki.
 „ GOPAL GANESH
 „ SITARAM PATEL.
 LIEUTENANT D. O. MORRIS, Assistant Commissioner.
 MR. HITCHENS.
 „ NARAYEN KADTAJI.
 „ ANNAJI KESHEO.
 „ SHABAZ KHAN, Tahsildar.
 „ KHAN BAHADUR BHOLE KHAN.
 KESHEO GHANASHAM.
 MR. ABBARU.
 „ HUKUM CHAND.

At Ellichpur the Deputy Commissioner convened a meeting on the 28th March 1897, at which a resolution was passed appointing a District Committee consisting of the following members :—

MR. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, Deputy Commissioner.
 REVEREND A. MÜLLER.
 MR. B. CLAY, Assistant Commissioner.
 „ R. MACGILL, District Superintendent of Police.
 „ P. GOVINDRAJ, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 „ SAYED AMJAD HUSAIN.
 „ MAHOMED AZIMUDIN.
 „ MAHOMED ABDUL BARI
 „ AHMED ALI, Jagirdar.
 „ RAGHUPAT HAMVANTRAO.
 „ VYANKATRAO HANMANTRAO.
 „ PURUSHOTTAM BHAGWANTRAO.
 „ KRISHNAJI ANANT.
 „ MAHADAJI DESHMUKH.
 „ BHAGWANTRAO SHANKERRAO.
 „ NARAYEN PANDURANG JOSHI, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 „ BAPU MAHADEO PENDSE.
 „ NARAIN RAMCHANDRA GADHIKAR.
 „ WASUDEO KRISHNA DANGE.
 „ DRAKE.
 „ PITKE.
 „ YESHWANTRAO KALE.
 „ ASHMUTULLA.
 „ ANIAJI PATEL.
 „ TUKARAM DESHMUKH.
 „ TUKARAM PATEL.
 „ SHRIKISON CHAGOLAL.
 „ SHIWDA BASANTRAI.
 „ MOTIRAM SADORAM.
 „ MADHORAO LALAJI.
 „ BALAJI SADASHIO.
 „ UDEBHAN PATEL.
 „ RAJARAM VITHOBA.
 „ RIASATALLI, Jagirdar.
 „ GIRDARILAL.
 NAWAB DAOOD KHAN.
 MR. J. C. WATCHA.
 „ BALAX LADHURAM.

A Sub-Committee was appointed for each of the Taluks of Ellichpur and Daryapur which were parcelled out into 26 Relief Circles, each circle being placed in charge of a Village Committee working under the Sub-Committee.

The administration of the Charitable Relief Fund in the Melghat was solely entrusted to Mr. C. Bagshawe, Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad Assigned Districts. There were 33 relief centres, each centre being in charge of a Forest Subordinate.

In the Buldana District the District Committee which came into existence on or about the 1st April 1897 was composed of the following members :—

CAPTAIN R. P. COLOMB, Deputy Commissioner.
 LIEUTENANT T. C. FLOWDEN, Assistant Commissioner.
 KHAN BAHADUR NAWAB SALAMULLA KHAN.
 MR. M. S. BAPAT.
 „ AMRIT WAMAN DALAL.
 „ SAKHARAMAPPA of Sakhli.
 „ KHWAJA ABDUL BAKI KHAN.

In pursuance of instructions received from the Resident at Hyderabad, a public meeting was held at Amraoti on the 12th March 1897 to consider what steps should be taken to organize charitable relief in this Province. The meeting was presided over by Mr. F. S. Bullock, I.C.S., Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

A subscription list was opened, and Rs. 12,142 were subscribed on the spot. A strong Provincial Committee was then formed with power to add to their number, and we were appointed Honorary Secretaries. This Committee at its first meeting held on the 15th of March 1897, appointed an Executive Committee consisting of eight gentlemen to work out and manage the Fund; with Messrs. R. N. Mudholkar and Bhanduji Janardan as Honorary Secretaries to carry out the object of the Fund.

1. Mr. F. S. Bullock, I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.
2. " A. Lucas, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Amraoti.
3. " G. S. Khaparde, B.A., LL.B., High Court Pleader.
4. " R. B. Talwalkar, Head Master, Amraoti High School.
5. " M. V. Joshi, B.A., LL.B., High Court Pleader.
6. " F. W. Prideaux, Deputy Commissioner, Akola.
7. " R. N. Mudholkar, B.A., LL.B., High Court Pleader.
8. " Bhanduji Janardhan Chowbal, Civil Judge, Amraoti.

The Agent of the Amraoti Branch of the Bank of Bombay was appointed Honorary Treasurer. The Deputy Commissioners were requested to form District and Local Committees for collecting subscriptions and

administering relief according to the instructions of the Government of India under the direction and supervision of the Provincial Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee used to meet every week when the distress was acute, but subsequently it met only when there was any business of importance to be transacted. The Executive Committee held 16 meetings in all up to the end of October. But on several occasions the opinions of the members were obtained by circulating papers with the suggestions of the President or of the Secretaries.

There was no separate District Committee for the Amraoti District, as it was arranged that the business should be managed by the Executive Members of the Central Committee. In this district each taluk was divided into a certain number of relief circles, and the business connected with each circle was entrusted to a Sub-Committee, of which the Tahsildar was Chairman. At Amraoti itself a separate Sub Committee was appointed for the sole purpose of supervising the working of a cheap grain shop. Relief was also distributed in the district through the agency of the district Forest Officer and the Hospital Assistants in charge of outlying Charitable Dispensaries. All the Sub-Committees commenced the work of giving relief on or about the 15th April 1897.

At Akola a District Committee consisting of the following members was formed on the 18th March 1897 and 10 Sub-Committees were appointed to administer relief throughout the district:—

- MR. F. W. A. PRIDEAUX, Deputy Commissioner.
- " R. GALLOWAY, District Superintendent of Police.
- " SHEIK MUHAMAD ISMAIL, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
- " EDULJI SANJANA, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
- RAO SAHEB DEOROO VINAYEK.
- MR. D. G. PATWARDHAN.
- " D. V. BHAGWAT.
- " L. G. DESHPANDE, Tahsildar.
- " SALIM KHAN.
- " PRAYAGJI, of Messrs. MULJI JETHA.
- " JAIKRISHNA BAGAJI.
- " PANDURANG BAPUJI.
- " DEORAO JAIKRISHNA.
- " V. A. KANE, Tahsildar.
- " GABOO SING.
- " GHULAM HUSEN.
- " NURUDDIN KAZI.
- " MARUTI NAIK.
- " KISAN DAYAL.
- " ABDUL KUDUS, Tahsildar.
- " PAPATLAL PARASHRAM.
- " NYAMAT KHAN.
- " SAKHARAM JAIKRISHNA.
- " MADHORAO AUNARAO, Tahsildar.

MR. AMRIT GOPAL.
 „ RENUKADAS of Tunki.
 „ GOPAL GANESH
 „ SITARAM PATEL.
 LIEUTENANT D. O. MORRIS, Assistant Commissioner.
 MR. HITCHENS.
 „ NARAYEN KADTAJI.
 „ ANNAJI KESHEO.
 „ SHABAZ KHAN, Tahsildar.
 „ KHAN BAHADUR BHOLE KHAN.
 KESHEO GUANASHAM.
 MR. ABBARU.
 „ HUKUM CHAND.

At Ellichpur the Deputy Commissioner convened a meeting on the 28th March 1897, at which a resolution was passed appointing a District Committee consisting of the following members:—

MR. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, Deputy Commissioner.
 REVEREND A. MÜLLER.
 MR. B. CLAY, Assistant Commissioner.
 „ R. MACGILL, District Superintendent of Police.
 „ P. GOVINDRAJ, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 „ SAYED AMJAD HUSAIN.
 „ MAHOMED AZIMUDIN.
 „ MAHOMED ABDUL BARI
 „ AHMED ALI, Jagirdar.
 „ RAGHUPAT HAMVANTRAO.
 „ VYANKATRAO HANMANTRAO.
 „ PURUSHOTTAM BHAGWANTRAO.
 „ KRISHNAJI ANANT.
 „ MAHADAJI DESHMUKH.
 „ BHAGWANTRAO SHANKERRAO.
 „ NARAYEN PANDURANG JOSHI, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 „ BAPU MAHADEO PENDSE.
 „ NARAIN RAMCHANDRA GADHIKAR.
 „ WASUDEO KRISHNA DANGE.
 „ DRAKE.
 „ PITKE.
 „ YESHWANTRAO KALE.
 „ ASHMUTULLA.
 „ ANIAJI PATEL.
 „ TUKARAM DESHMUKH.
 „ TUKARAM PATEL.
 „ SHRIKISON CHAGOLAL.
 „ SHIVDAS BASANTRAI.
 „ MOTIRAM SADORAM.
 „ MADHORA LALAJI.
 „ BALAJI SADASHIO.
 „ UDEBHAN PATEL.
 „ RAJARAM VITHOBA.
 „ RIASATALI, Jagirdar.
 „ GIRDARILAL.
 NAWAB DAOOD KHAN.
 MR. J. C. WATCHA.
 „ BALAX LADHURAM.

A Sub-Committee was appointed for each of the Taluks of Ellichpur and Daryapur which were parcelled out into 26 Relief Circles, each circle being placed in charge of a Village Committee working under the Sub-Committee.

The administration of the Charitable Relief Fund in the Melghat was solely entrusted to Mr. C. Bagshawe, Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad Assigned Districts. There were 33 relief centres, each centre being in charge of a Forest Subordinate.

In the Buldana District the District Committee which came into existence on or about the 1st April 1897 was composed of the following members:—

CAPTAIN R. P. COLOMB, Deputy Commissioner.
 LIEUTENANT T. C. FLOWDEN, Assistant Commissioner.
 KHAN BAHADUR NAWAB SALAMULLA KHAN.
 MR. M. S. BAPAT.
 „ AMRIT WAMAN DALAL.
 „ SAKHARAMAPPA of Sakhli.
 „ KHWAJA ABDUL BAKI KHAN.

MR. WASUDEO BALAJI of Malkapur.
 " SAFDAR ALI BEG, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " TRIMBAK GANESH, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " SYED MAHAMED, Tehsildar.
 " MAHOMAD ASAFALI KHAN, Tehsildar.
 " RAHIMUTULLA, Tehsildar.

Four Sub-Committees were appointed, one for each taluk and one for the head quarter station of Buldana.

At a meeting held at Yeotmal on the 27th March 1897 by the Deputy Commissioner of the Wun district, a District Committee was formed composed of the following members :—

CAPTAIN T. W. HAIG, Deputy Commissioner.
 MR. HAIDAR ALLI, Attache.
 " H. A. HEATH, District Superintendent of Police.
 DR. O. W. JONES, Civil Surgeon.
 MR. C. H. PRICE, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " MANSUKRAI, District Forest Officer.
 " V. N. KALIKAR, Tahsildar.
 " WAMON GANESH.
 " G. G. DAMLE.
 " L. N. GOKHALE, Tehsildar.
 " R. G. MUNDLE.
 " S. M. DEO.
 " N. G. DESHPANDE.
 " HARDEO SUKHDEO.
 " RAMSHANKER.
 " R. R. BAPAT } Secretaries.
 " N. B. GADRE }

For the distribution of relief in the district, ten centres were established, each under the management of a Sub-Committee. The places at which and the dates on which these committees came into existence are given below :—

1. Yeotmal	14th April 1897.
2. Ner	26th May 1897.
3. Wun	}	1st June 1897.
4. Kelapur		.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5. Digras	5th July 1897. 10th July 1897. 12th July 1897. 13th July 1897. 15th July 1897.
6. Darwa	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7. Kalamb	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8. Kayar	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9. Yelabara	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10. Nowargaon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

In the Basim District the District Committee came into existence on the 22nd March 1897 and was composed of the following members :—

The Deputy Commissioner
 The Tahsildars of Basim, } Ex-officio Members.
 Pusad and Mangrul.
 MESSRS. E. MARSHALL, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " K. S. JATTAR, Attaché.
 " J. R. EDWARDS, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " MIR ANWAR ALI, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
 " YESHWANTRA WAMON.
 " SHESHRAO RAGUNATH.
 " PANDURANG VINAYEK.
 " VINAYEK VISHNU.
 " SHEONATH DHANRAJ.
 " SHAOLAL BADRINARAYEN.

On the 19th August 1897 Mr. Yeshwantrao, who was already a member, was appointed a Joint Secretary with Mr. Sheshrao, and Mr. H. Charles was made a member and appointed auditor of the accounts.

The Committee was assisted by three Sub-Committees one for each taluk, all of which were formed shortly after it was constituted. The distribution of charitable relief was also entrusted to the special Civil officers in charge of famine relief works, the District Forest Officer, and the Hospital Assistants in charge of outlying charitable dispensaries.

The chief section of the agency employed to administer relief from the Charitable Relief Fund was, generally, identical with that employed by Government to carry on its own relief operations. The district agencies were all subordinate to the District Committee which had the Deputy Commissioner as its Chairman, while the District Committees were subordinate to the Provincial Com-

mittee, of which the President was the Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. A system of relief agency thus organized was in itself a sufficient guarantee that the principles to be observed in administering charitable relief, as distinguished from that given by Government, would be adhered to in practice. In the Melghat, a tract in which the largest amount of relief was afforded, the system adopted is thus described.

"The pargana and forest reserves were generally adopted as charitable relief units, while the chain of agencies for distribution of relief was as follows:—

The Deputy Commissioner of Ellichpur and the Conservator of Forests, who were in charge of relief operations, framed a rough estimate of the requirements of the Melghat as to seed, etc., and negotiations for purchasing were started. Owing to the two years' failure of crops in the Melghat the supply of seed was very limited, either in the taluk or in the adjacent districts of the Central Provinces; and the plains of Berar, the east and south-east of the Central Provinces, the North-West Provinces and Oudh, and Bombay had to be indented on for seed, while plough oxen were procurable in the Central Provinces and Berar. The Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, having approved of the proposals, advances were given, and depôts for storing and issuing were selected in view of convenience as to position and the existence of the necessary buildings for storing and of forest subordinates to issue, etc. Mr. Williamson, Deputy Conservator of Forests, through his staff of range officers, for the forest villages and for villages adjacent to the reserves; and Mr. Bissesar Singh, the Tahsildar, through his patwaris, then drew up preliminary lists of cultivators needing seed, etc., which, after check and revision, formed the first basis of relief afforded. When ploughing time came, plough cattle were issued through Mr. Williamson, Deputy Conservator of Forests, through the Tahsildar, or by the Conservator directly. When seed time drew near, patwaris and forest range officers, etc., were provided with memos. of the allotments to be made and depôts to be drawn on in each circle, and with passes to issue to the cultivators (giving name, amount allotted, and depôt drawn on), and each village was ordered to be visited and passes issued. As soon as issue began, the taluk was, as far as possible, quartered by the forest officers, by Mr. Clay, Assistant Commissioner, and the Tahsildar, with a view to ensure all in need being relieved, and any abuse checked.

In May 1897 a more detailed scheme for charitable relief was submitted to, and approved of by, the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts. The only considerable additions to previous proposals were the grant of free food to cultivators, and the extension of cheap shops which had been already started by Government. In connection with this scheme it may be mentioned that it was then proposed to afford aid by hiring plough cattle; this was subsequently found to be a wasteful plan, and the number of oxen purchased was increased. The purchase of clothing and bedding was included in the scheme, and some distressed weavers belonging to the district were thus aided."

From the preceding, it will be apparent that, while Government opened relief works, afforded special aid in the forests, and gave gratuitous relief to those unable to work, the grants of the Charitable Relief Fund were utilized by the same agency to afford special relief to cultivators and to carry on cheap food shops so that "overlapping" was impossible in the Melghat.

9. *Relief actually given by the Charitable Relief Fund.*—The total amount received by the Provincial Committee for charitable relief in Berar was Rs. 1,97,586-7-5 as follows:—

Remittances from the Central Committee from the	R.	a.	p.	
General Fund				1,10,000 0 0
	R.	a.	p.	
Local subscriptions collected direct-				
ly by or remitted to, the Provincial				
Committee	6,290	9	3	} 87,186 5 10
Subscriptions collected by District				
Committees and Sub-Committees				
for their own use	80,895	12	7	
				1,97,186 5 10
Miscellaneous				400 1 7
TOTAL	1,97,586	7	5	

The amount collected by each District Committee from local subscriptions was as follows:—

	R.	a.	p.
Amraoti	25,066	7	0
Akola	15,271	0	0
Ellichpur	6,627	12	6
Buldana	20,155	1	6
Wun	7,563	1	3
Basim	6,212	6	4
TOTAL	80,895	12	7

Of the amount collected by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee, a sum of ₹2,865-10-3 was remitted by the Superintendent of the Residency Bazaars, Hyderabad, and ₹3,424-15-0 were collected from subscribers.

Of the total receipts, amounting, as shown above, to ₹1,97,586-7-5, the sum actually expended up to the 31st October 1897 amounted to ₹1,77,363-0-10, leaving a closing balance on that date of ₹20,223-6-7, of which ₹6,510-12-3 are in the hands of the Provincial Committee and ₹13,712-10-4 with the several District Committees.

Of the total expenditure incurred in affording relief in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, the amount expended under each of the four objects specified in Enclosure A of the Government of India's Despatch No. 64, dated the 23rd December 1896, was as follows:—

	R.	a.	p.
I. Supplementing the assistance given by Government to the aged or infirm, patients in hospital, and children, etc., or in doling out cooked or uncooked food where there was no Government poor-house	54,658	15	8
II. In providing for the maintenance of orphans	2,966	7	10
III. In relieving poor but respectable persons	50,713	10	4
IV. In restoring to their original position when acute distress was subsiding, those who had lost their all in the struggle	67,274	0	10
TOTAL	1,75,613	2	8

In addition to the expenditure on objects of charitable relief, a sum of ₹1,749-14-2 was expended on office establishment, telegrams, stationery, etc. Of this sum, ₹314-13-0 were expended by the Provincial Committee and ₹1,435-1-2 by the District and Sub-Committees.

The expenditure incurred under Object I in each district was as follows:—

	R.	a.	p.
Amraoti	18,151	1	0
Akola	811	9	0
Ellichpur	7,941	6	3
Melghat	3,978	10	0
Buldana	15,633	5	11
Wun	6,479	3	0
Basim	1,663	12	6
TOTAL	54,658	15	8

In the Amraoti District 42 persons were provided with clothing at a cost of ₹18-10-9, and 18,216 persons were relieved by the provision of rations and comforts at a cost of ₹18,057-6-3. A sum of ₹75 was expended in the Morsi taluk in providing shelter for the distribution of cooked food.

In the Akola District clothing was supplied to 279 persons at a cost of ₹311-9-0, and ₹500 were expended in providing rations and comforts.

In the Ellichpur District the whole amount charged to Head I was expended in providing rations and comforts, and the number of persons said to have been relieved is 5,717. In the Melghat 2,315 persons were provided with clothing at a cost of R3,602-13-1, and an expenditure of R172-13-11 was incurred in relieving 45 persons in the Government poor-houses for 31 days by the provision of milk and other small comforts. The amount expended in supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief was R202-15-0, whereby 87 persons were relieved for 31 days.

The following is the detail of the expenditure incurred in the Buldana District under Object I:—

	Amount expended.			Number of persons relieved.
	R	a.	p.	
Clothing	2,378	6	6	4,240
Building and furnishing poor-houses, etc.	293	15	6	
Establishment charges	233	7	7	
Conveying paupers to poor-houses	2	4	6	4,928
Rations and comforts	5,136	5	10	
Miscellaneous	505	5	3	
Provision of comforts in Government poor-houses	1,591	6	3	1,594
Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief	4,933	7	6	2,000
Payment to released convicts	31	10	0	100
Materials for a serai for the poor at Nandura	464	0	0	
Providing meals for children and aged or infirm persons	63	1	0	
TOTAL	15,633	5	11	12,862

In the Wun District the whole of the amount expended under Object I was on account of rations and comforts in poor-houses, and the number of persons relieved is reported to have been 226,209.*

In the Basim District 97 persons were provided with clothing at a cost of R85-0-7, and rations and comforts were provided for 1,735 persons at an expenditure of R1,548-0-11. In addition to this a sum of R8-0-6 was expended in supplementing the Government wage to 22 persons on relief works for one month, and R14-15-3 and R7-11-3 were expended in providing food and clothing to 22 wanderers.

The expenditure incurred in each district under Object II was as follows:—

	Amount expended.			Number of orphans relieved.
	R	a.	p.	
Amraoti	875	15	4	1,423
Ellichpur	577	6	5	595
Buldana	1,233	8	7	1,589
Basim	29	9	6	58
TOTAL	2,716	7	10	3,665
<i>Add—</i> Amount remitted to the Missionary Orphanage at Chadderghat, Hyderabad (Deccan)	250	0	0	.....
TOTAL	2,966	7	10	.....

* N.B.—The number does not represent the actual number of persons relieved (as required by Instruction (a) to Form B), but evidently the number of doles given.

Under Object III the following sums were expended in the several districts of Berar :—

	R	a.	p.
Amraoti	13,728	15	2
Akola	30,158	1	1
Ellichpur	4,356	4	0
Buldana	1,994	12	5
Basim	475	9	8
TOTAL	50,713	10	4

The details of the expenses incurred in each district under this head are as follows :—

DISTRICT.	CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS.		MONEY DOLES.		GRAIN OR COOKED FOOD DOLES.		CLOTJUNG.		Total Expenditure incurred.
	Number of families relieved.	Expenditure incurred.	Number of families relieved.	Expenditure incurred.	Number of families relieved.	Expenditure incurred.	Number of families relieved.	Expenditure incurred.	
		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.
Amraoti	8,124	10,163 4 6	194	1,101 9 9	1,162	2,397 3 5	125	64 13 6	13,728 15 2
Akola	Not stated	2,500 0 0	...	...	2,256	27,653 1 1	...	...	30,158 1 1
Ellichpur	Ditto.	81 3 0	...	...	3,135	4,274 12 0	...	...	4,356 4 0
Buldana . . . . .	...	...	...	...	732	1,924 12 5	...	...	1,994 12 5
Basim . . . . .	...	...	1	1 0 0	180	218 4 3	253	256 5 5	475 9 8

Under Object IV the amount expended by each District Committee is as follows :—

	R	a.	p.
Amraoti	30	0	0
Akola	4,085	9	2
Ellichpur . . . . .	.....	
Melghat	49,535	14	5
Buldana	5,588	8	0
Wun . . . . .	.....	
Basim	8,034	1	3
TOTAL	67,274	0	10

In the plain taluks of the Ellichpur District and in the whole of the Wun District nothing was expended under this head, while in the Amraoti District the expenditure incurred amounted only to Rs. 30.

In the Melghat, where relief of this kind was specially needed, the large sum of Rs. 49,435-14-5 was expended, and with regard to this expenditure the Conservator of Forests writes as follows :—

"The main work of the Fund has fallen under head IV.—Recuperative aid to cultivators and professional workmen."

In the Melghat the land assessment is on the plough, as much land being cultivated per plough as can be worked with one pair of oxen. Out of a total of 9,114 ploughs, aid was afforded to 4,361 ploughs for the Kharif by the issue of about 19 seers per plough.

In addition, 623 plough oxen were issued, subject to a limited right of ownership by cultivators so as to enable us to resume possession of the cattle if men fail to cultivate. This was very useful in the case of some families, who ate the Kharif seed-grain, and some transfers were made in consequence in time to get rabi seed down.

With the Kharif seed-grain a first issue of jowari for food was made at the rate of 20 seers per plough, so that large families with 2, 3 or 4 ploughs received suitable quantities. This first issue amounted to 90,054 seers. The monsoon broke late, and the first issue of seed and food took place in July 1897. At the end of August and in early September revised lists of aided cultivators were

drawn up from the passes of the first issue, the villages were re-grouped so as to increase the number of circles, and the help of most of the subordinate forest establishment was enlisted to aid patwaris in village-to-village visitation. The objects were to examine the Kharif cultivation, make a second issue of food grain to all who had done well and needed it, and to issue free grazing passes for all cattle belonging to aborigines and other poor cultivators, and, finally, to try and ascertain where more plough cattle were wanted or seed for the rabi crop.

The issue was completed by about 15th September and passes for 60,265 seers of grain were issued. The reduced quantity was due to many villages having reaped early crops and to some failure to utilize the first grant of seed and food. At the end of September and early October there was a second issue of 161 plough cattle, this time money payments being made and recipients were bound over to show their purchases at a specified centre. In October rabi seed, 13,296 seers, and a further allotment of food, jowari, 14,500 seers, was issued to about 532 ploughs. ₹ 700 were given out in advances for seed grain, the loans being repayable in May 1898.

The above comprises all direct agricultural relief afforded up to date. In addition 80 plough oxen have been collected and are now in hand which will be issued in December—January to Korku cultivators who have cultivated their fields and who have only one plough bullock. To meet the cases of many Korkus in and near the reserves, the village cart manufacturers were given wood free to make carts from July to October; and 44 thus made have been purchased and issued to destitute Korkus who export timber, etc.

The last method of affording relief to be referred to is shops opened for the sale of food at a fair rate. Private dealers ran the rates up to 6 seers of jowari to the rupee in February—March, and cultivating and labouring classes alike suffered. The first arrangements were made by Government through banias who undertook to sell at Ellichpur weekly bazaar rates on a mileage allowance for carriage. Sales were made under the orders of officers in charge of works, or by tickets issued by forest subordinates, which were limited to 1 paili (2 seers) per person or ₹1 of grain per family. The ticket system worked very well at Sembodoh, Chunkheri, Raipur, Koha, and Dharni.

The banias, however, owing to the approach of the rains, declined to carry on sales after 31st May or 10th June. Under contracts with banias 450,880 seers of jowari were imported and sold and ₹2,078 paid by Government for loss on sale.

Fair priced food was a great boon to all, but especially so to Melghat exporters of timber and bamboos. When combined with reductions in the Government rates, it certainly helped to keep many thousands off Government direct relief from March to June. In April, May, June, arrangements were made for departmentally collecting and storing of food for the rains, and some 496,523 seers in all were put in depôt at a gross cost of ₹63,327. Cheap shops under Messrs. Windsor and Parkinson were opened in connection with the above at Gatang and Duni from April onwards. In June, as the banias closed, the Fund and Government Depôt were opened and sales continued up to October. 80,084 seers for ₹10,723 were used and loss paid by Government. 164,937 seers for Rs. 20,480 were issued free by the Charitable Relief Fund to cultivators, 251,502 seers were sold for ₹28,577, and the loss, ₹3,546, defrayed by the Fund.

The rates at depôts were not varied from week to week. From April to June, 14 pice a paili of two seers of jowari was fixed. In the rains, 16 pice a paili, and in October 13 pice was fixed.

Most of the grain, etc., was stocked in April—June before prices were at their highest, and losses by re-weighment rates, etc., were not high; the result is that the loss on sales is moderate, especially when we remember that much grain had to be carted 49 miles (and over) beyond Ellichpur.

The food depôts greatly increased the work of forest subordinates concerned, but they were an absolute necessity."

The following are the details of the expenditure incurred in each of the three remaining districts of Akola, Buldana and Basim :—

District.	ASSISTANCE TOWARDS RE-BUILDING OR REPAIRING OF HOUSES.		MONEY GRANTS TO CULTIVATORS FOR PURCHASE OF CATTLE AND SEED GRAIN.		ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS BY GRANTS IN KIND.		LOANS (RECOVERABLE) TO AGRICULTURISTS.		OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER HEADING OBJECT IV.	
	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.
Akola . . .	...	R a. p. .....	...	R a. p.	1,929	4,053 9 8	...	R a. p.	Not stated.	R a. p. 31 15 6 4,085 9 2
Buldana . . .	3	28 0 0	409	5,135 8 0	...	.....	9	359 0 0	6	66 0 0 5,588 8 0
Basim . . .	...	.....	681	6,503 0 0	90	1,531 1 3	...	.....	...	8,034 1 3

10. *Provincial Committee's work in distributing the funds and supervising the work of District Committees.*—Funds were distributed to District Committees on requisitions which were duly considered at the meetings of the Provincial Executive Committee. Generally speaking, there was no interference with the working of the District Committees, but owing to the forms of accounts not having been properly understood, there was always some difficulty in getting in the district accounts (correctly prepared) on due dates. The supervision exercised by the Provincial Executive Committee consisted principally of communicating to the District Committees the instructions received from time to time from the Central Committee at Calcutta; of seeing, as far as possible, that those instructions were properly complied with; of allotting funds, sanctioning expenditure, and examining their accounts.

With a view to the proper application of funds and the keeping of correct accounts, it was arranged that the accounts of the District Committees should be audited every month by the Deputy Commissioner's accountants, and those of the Sub-Committees by the Tahsildars or Naib-Tahsildars. It was insisted that every sum of expenditure should be supported by a voucher. Under instructions from the Central Committee, Calcutta, the accounts of the District and Local Committees were also audited in October last by Treasury officers of the several districts.

11. *General Remarks.*—From the figures given in Form B, it will be observed that the relief administered in the Amraoti and Wun Districts took, for the most part, the form of doles of cooked or uncooked food. Private charity, which poured in with munificent generosity, but of which there is no record in this report, invariably assumed this shape.

This mode of relief is quite in accord with the instincts, traditions and religious belief of Hindus and Mahomedans.

When the distress began to manifest itself and the well-to-do were roused to a sense of the situation and the necessity of action, and this happened before the Fund was started, the form which commended itself most to them was the establishment of poor-houses or kitchens for the destitute, like those at Amraoti and Murtizapur. On the opening of the Fund, subscriptions were in some districts given by people on the distinct understanding that the amount given by them would be applied in feeding the destitute poor of their own locality. In some cases, kitchens for the poor were considered necessary by the District and Local Committees themselves because there was no Government poor-house near.

Along with this form of relief another which commended itself most to the sense of the donors was the sale of grain at comparatively low rates to the deserving poor. This form of relief also was undertaken by the generously inclined amongst the public before the operations of this Fund commenced.

12. *Special services rendered by individuals or Sub-Committees.*—The Executive Committee beg to offer their acknowledgments to the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for the very generous help which they have given to the poor of this province. On behalf of our Committee we also beg to tender our heartfelt thanks to the people of Great Britain and Ireland and of the other parts of Europe and of America and of the British Colonies for the generous assistance rendered by them. To the District and Sub-Committees, their Chairmen and their energetic Secretaries, and to the subscribers to this Fund, the acknowledgments of the Executive Committee have to be made with equally heartfelt sincerity. The Executive Committee and the general public feel that but for the assistance which Government and the generous public in India, England and other countries afforded, it would have gone exceedingly hard with the afflicted poor of this province. In the trials through which this province along with other tracts in India passed, it was some consolation to see that our fellow brothers both in this and other countries felt sympathy with us in our misfortunes.

We beg to append in a separate list the names of persons who have been specially mentioned by the District Officers or the District Committees as deserving of special thanks for the pecuniary assistance given by them or the work rendered by them

The worst affected tract in Berar was the Melghat, and the credit of saving the lives of the 50,000 people there belongs to Mr. Bagshawe, the Conservator of Forests of this province. To him in the first degree, and after him to his subordinates who worked in hearty and loyal co-operation with him, the thanks of the Government, the public and of this Committee are due for preventing a catastrophe in the Melghat.

Before concluding we wish to place on record our appreciation of the work done by Mr. K. W. Ozarkar, Clerk of the Executive Committee. He discharged his duties with an intelligence and zealousness which deserve special consideration, and we trust that his abilities, honesty and zeal will receive better recognition than what it is in our power to bestow.

BANDHUJI JANARDHAN,

R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

Honorary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Berar.

List of persons who have been specially mentioned by the District Officers or District Committees.

Name.	Name.
<p><i>Amraoti District.</i></p> <p>All the Local Committees. Rao Saheb Rambilas. Mr. Bandhuji Janardan. " Narayensingh Babutsingh. " R. N. Mudholkar. " M. V. Joshi. The Bank of Bombay. Mr. A. Elliott. Dr. R. N. Mudholkar. Mr. Kunjilal Acharjee. " Dorabji Cowasji. Messrs. Moolji Jetha & Co. Mr. Ganeshdas Kundanmal. " Hiralal Ramgopal. " Deorao Champatrao. " Bhagwanji Vishnaji. " Sonaji Patel. " Anandrao Tukaram. " Bhagwant Atmaram. " Sheoram Wasudeo. " Ramrao Patel. " Khajulal Rampratab. " V. N. Dandekar.</p>	<p><i>Ellichpur District—contd.</i></p> <p>Mr. Amjad Husain. " Purushottamrao Deshpande. " Vakatrao Deshmukh. " Khushalrao Narayenrao. " Rajaram Viteramji. " Rajaram Vithoba. " Ganeshpuri. " Riasatalli Jagirdhar. " Atmaram Sadashio. " Udebhan Bhiwasanji. " Madhorao Lala. " Maruti Sonaji. " Tukaram Januji. " Basantrao Sadashio. " Balaji Sadashio. " Ganesh Gopal. " Govind Shioram. " Ahmad Alli. " Girdharilal. " Balwant Sheshrao. " Jamji Dattaji. " Gopalrao Gore. " Mahadaji Kaodaji. The Extra Assistant Commissioner, Daryapur The Naib Tahsildar, Daryapur. Mr. Bhagwantrao Shankarrao. " Rampratap Marwadi. " Deorao Khushal. " Sheik Daud Khan Mulla. " Narayen Krishna Munshi. " Deorao, Patel of Sanglood. " Kadtaji Narayen. " Sonaji Vithoba. " Raghupat Hanmantrao. " Balasangai. " Hirachand Tarachand. " Yeshwant Narayen. " Deorao Bapuji. " Gos Mahomed. " Ghastu Khan. " Vithoba Patel. " Tukaram Patel. " Maruti Sitaram. " Tukaram Ragoji. " Bhagwantrao Saheb. " Mahaduji Ramji. " Sadashio Sonaji. " Ramji Ragoba. " Patel and Patwari of Ramtirth Circle. " Aniaji Sonaji of Singnapur. " Ganpatrao Marathe. " Nagorao Sonaji. " Khusalji Rajmalji. " Hiralal Ramsukh.</p>
<p><i>Akola District.</i></p> <p>Rao Saheb Deorao Vinayak, Ex-Joint Secretary. Mr. Deorao Jaikrishna, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Telhara. " Vinayak Appaji Kane, Tahsildar, Akot. " Laxman Gopal Deshpande, Tahsildar, Akola. " Vithal Sadashiv, Naib Tahsildar, Khamgaon. " Hari Kukaji, Patel of Shegaon. Ginning Factory owners of Akot. Mr. Sawatram Rampratap Marwadi. " Vithal Nagoji Kasar of Dahihanda. Well-to-do people of Boregaon, Gopal Khed, Nagwa and Eranda. Mr. Salimkha. " Jaikrishna Bagaji. " Ganoba Raghoba. " Mirza Abas Beg. " Chunnilal Gulabchand. " Hiralal Surajmal. " Daolatram Sheonath. " Raghunathdas Rampratap Marwadi. American Missionaries at Akola.</p>	<p><i>Melghat Taluk.</i></p> <p>Mr. Prideaux, Deputy Commissioner, Akola. " Kane. The Director of Agriculture in the North-Western Provinces. The Director of Agriculture, Bombay. Reverend A. Müller.</p>
<p><i>Ellichpur District.</i></p> <p>Mr. Ganesh Nagesh. The Tahsildar, Ellichpur. The Tahsildar, Daryapur. Mr. Narayan Pandurang. " Bapu Mahadeo, Pleader. " Narayen Ramchandra. " Sadashio Govind Damle. " P. Govind Raj Aya. " MacGill. " J. C. Wacha. " Uttamrao Yeshwantrao. " Shrikisan Choggolal.</p>	

Name.

Melghat Taluk—contd.

Miss Murray.
Messrs. Windsor, Parkinson & Shepperd.
The Mission Orphanage.
The Leper Asylum.
Mr. Williamson, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.
" S. L. Kenny, Assistant Conservator.
" B. Clay, Assistant Commissioner.
" Misre Persad, Offg. Extra Assistant Conservator.
" Bisseswar Sing, Tahsildar.
Rao Saheb Rambilas.
Mr. Lala Mangilal.
" Kale Khan, Bania.
" Govinda, do.
" Hansanali, do.
" R. B. Naidu, Hospital Assistant.
Messrs. Daduji and Babuji of Masondi.
Mr. Ramji, Patel of Mota and Khel.
" Janooji Deshmuk of Kurha.
" Shrawanaji, Patel of Anjangaon.
Mr. Harsing of Upat Khera.
" Jagulal of Bahali.
" Palucandy, Forest Clerk.
" Trimbak Balkrishna, Ranger.
" Pandurang Naryan, ditto.
" Dhamdheri, ditto.
" Krishnaswamy, ditto.
" Laxmon Balkrishna, Forester.
" Hazari Prasad, ditto.
" Mahabirsing, ditto.
" Pappannah, ditto.
" Chendria, ditto.
" Sheoprasad, ditto.
" Bhairon, ditto.
" Sujatalli, Forest Clerk.

Buldana District.

Lieutenant T. C. Plowden.
Khwaja Abdul Baki Khan.
Mr. S. M. Chinuria, Hospital Assistant at Nandura.
" Bapusa Tukasa of Mehkar.
" Narayensa Babansa.
" Govindappa Punjappo of Janephal.
" Kasheo Rao Vyankatesh Deshpande of Fattekerda.
" Ganpati Hiruji, Patel of Loni Gowli.
" Rampratap Ramnarayan of Chikhli.
" Gopalsa Krishnasa ditto.
The Balaji Sawansthana.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Sallamulla Khan, Jagirdar of Deulghat.
Mr. Vishnusa Balkrishnasa of Malkapur.
" Sakhar amappa of Sakhli.

Name.

Buldana District—contd.

Mr. Wamanrao of Buldana.
" Safdaralli Beg, Extra Assistant Commissioner Mehkar.
" Sayad Mahomad, Tahsildar of Chikhli.
All Local Committees.
Mr. M. S. Bapat, Pleader of Buldana.
" Amrit Wamandalal.
" Krishnaji Malhar Paithankar, Secretary.
" Ganesh Waman Soman, Pleader, ditto.
" Wasudeo Balaji.
Khan Bahadur Khaji Badiuddin.
Mr. Laxmanrao Mahadeo, Naib Tahsildar.
" Hamantrao Dada.
" Laxman Jaiwant Deshpande.
" Jairam Gangaram.
" Trimbak Marial, Pleader.
" Damodar Hari, Pleader.
" Narayanrao Parwatrao, Patel.
" Dhondji Kondji, Police Inspector at Malkapur.
" Chimnaya.
" Narayan Prabhakar.
" Prakasham, Hospital Assistant, Chikhli.
" Thumbaswami, ditto, Deulgaon Raja.
" Sakharamappa of Sakhli.
" Vishnusa Gopalsa of Chikhli.
" Kashinath Daji of Deulgaon Raja.
" Gopal Shridhar of Chikli.
" Kesheo Wasudeo.
" Kashinath Bhicaji, Pleader of Mehkar.
" Govind Waman, Clerk.

Wun District.

Mr. Khajalal Rampratap, Marwadi.
" Bakhtaram Rampratap.
" Gangabisan Tansukhrui.
" Haradeo Sukdeo, Marwadi.
" Martand Anandrao.
The Tahsildars of Wun, Kelapur, Darwa.
Mr. V. N. Kalikar, Tahsildar of Yeotmal.
" Daji Ramchandra.
The Buddhist Monks of Ceylon.

Basim District.

Mr. Charles.
" Yeshwantrao Waman, Pleader.
" Ramchandra Santo.
" Rustomji Faridonji, Chairman of the District Committee.
The Chairman of the Mangrul Local Committee.
Mr. K. P. Bhat, Tahsildar.
The Chairman of the Basim Local Committee.
Mr. Sher Mahomed Khan, Tahsildar.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,

R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

Honorary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Berar.

AMRAOTI,

The 14th February 1898.

FORM B.

Statement showing details of relief operations from
Number of persons relieved

OBJECT I.		Amraoti.	Akola.	Ellichpur.
A.—CLOTHING, BLANKETS, ETC., TO PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF, WHETHER IN POOR-HOUSES, KITCHENS, OR OUTSIDE.				
(i) <i>Number of persons to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given :—</i> <i>Number of persons.</i>				
(a) the articles being sent from England . . . . .		.....	279	.....
(b) Ditto provided by the Provincial Committee				
(c) The cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee . . . . .		.....	279	.....
Total number of persons . . . . .		.....	279	.....
<i>R a. p.</i>				
(1) Expenditure on clothing, blankets, etc., under (c) above . . . . .		.....	311 9 0	.. ..
(2) How much of (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers. . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(3) How much from petty shop-keepers . . . . .		.....	81 10 6	.....
(4) How much in buying from large cloth-dealers . . . . .		.....	229 14 6	.....
(ii) <i>number of persons, if any, to whom money was given to enable them to buy clothing</i> <i>amount so given</i>				
B.—OTHER EXPENDITURE IN POOR-HOUSES OR KITCHENS.				
(i) <i>Maintaining poor-houses or kitchens before Government action began, or where Government did not maintain them—</i> <i>R a. p.</i>				
(a) Amount spent in building and furnishing poor-houses or kitchens		75 0 0	.....	.....
(b) Establishment charges . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(c) Conveying paupers to poor-houses . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(d) Rations and comforts		18,057 6 3	500 0 0	7,816 6 3
(e) Other expenditure (with details)		*18 10 9 *Cost of clothing supplied in the Chandur Taluk. 42	.....	.....
<i>Number of persons to whom clothes were given :—</i>				
TOTAL		18,151 1 0	500 0 0	7,816 6 3
(1) Length of time during which poor-house and kitchen was open		6ms. 6 days. (a)	.....	.....
(2) Total number of persons who came to the poor-house and kitchen		18,216	.....	.....
(3) Highest number in poor-house and kitchen on any one day		2,231	.....	5,717
(4) Average daily number of inmates		141	.....	(Four months returns.)
<i>R a. p.</i>				
(ii) <i>Provision of "comforts" in Government poor-houses—</i>				
(a) Cost of milk supply . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(b) Purchase of lime juice and other comforts . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(c) Money distributed for purchase of additional food . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
(d) Other expenditure (with details) . . . . .		.....	.....	.....
TOTAL		Nil.	.....	.....
Object I carried forward		18,151 1 0	811 9 0	7,816 6 3

B.
BERAR.

the commencement up to 31st October 1897.
printed in antique type.

Melghat.	Buldana.	Wun.	Basim.	Total.	REMARKS.
2,315	4,240	.....	97	6,931	
2,315	4,240	.....	97	6,931	
3,602 13 1	2,378 6 6	.....	85 0 7	6,377 13 2	
850 4 0	*750 0 0	.....	.....	1,600 4 0	* The Multikapur Committee purchased all clothing from weavers.
38 8 0	169 2 6	.....	85 0 7	374 5 7	
2,714 1 1	1,459 4 0	.....	.....	4,403 3 7	
.....	293 15 6	.....	.....	368 15 6	
.....	233 7 7	.....	.....	233 7 7	
.....	2 4 6	.....	.....	2 4 6	
.....	5,136 5 10	6,479 3 0	1,548 0 11	39,537 6 3	
.....	†505 5 3	.....	.....	524 0 0	† The expenditure was incurred for purchase of utensils, fuel, etc.
.....	
.....	6,171 6 8	6,479 3 0	1,548 0 11	40,666 1 10	
.....	(b)	.....	(c) 1,735	6 ms. 6 days.	(a) The period varies. The poor-house and kitchens were open for 191 days in the Amraoti and Morsi Taluks, 180 and 177 days in the Chandur Taluk and 160 and 133 days in the Murtizapur Taluk.
.....	4,928	(d) 2,26,209		2,56,805	(b) The Chikhli and Deulgaon-Raja poor-houses were open for 5 months and 11 days, and Nandura for 6½ months.
.....	1,521	3,090		6,842	(c) No kitchen or poor-house was established, hence information cannot be given.
.....	611	1,741		2,493	(d) This number does not represent the actual number of persons relieved (as required by instruction (a) to Form B) but evidently the number of doles given.
37 1 8	.....	.....	.....	37 1 8	† Contingent charges of Poor-house Hospital.
0 12 3	.....	.....	.....	0 12 3	§ Erection of huts . . . 4 13 0
.....	1,549 14 6	.....	.....	1,549 14 6	Pots 5 1 3
1135 0 0	§41 7 9	.....	.....	176 7 9	Stationery 0 5 3
					Establishment 22 15 0
					Miscellaneous 8 5 3
					41 7 9
172 13 11	1,591 6 3	.....	.....	1,764 4 2	
3,775 11 0	10,141 3 5	6,479 3 0	1,633 1 6	48,808 3 2	

					Amraoti.	Akola.	Ellichpur.
Object I brought forward					18,151 1 0	811 9 0	7,816 6 3
NOTE—							
(1) Length of time during which comforts were provided					.....	5 months	.....
(2) Total number of persons who were provided with comforts					.....	321	.....
(3) Average daily number supplied—					.....	.....	.....
A with milk { children . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
others . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
B with other comforts . . . . .					.....	21	.....
C.—OTHER EXPENDITURE ON PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF OUTSIDE POOR-HOUSES.							
					<i>R a. p.</i>		
(i) <i>Supplementing the famine wage on relief works—</i>							
(a) Total amount so expended . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(b) Period during which it was expended . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(c) Total number of payments made . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(d) Average number each day—							
A men . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
B women . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
C children . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(ii) <i>Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief—</i>							
(a) Total amount so expended . . . . .					.....	.....	125 0 0
(b) Period during which it was expended . . . . .					.....	.....	From 16th Aug- ust 1897 to 31st October 1897.
(c) Total number of payments made . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(d) Average number per month or fortnight (according as the dole was monthly or fortnightly) of persons whose dole was increased . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(iii) <i>Providing meals for children or aged and infirm persons about relief works—</i>							
(a) Total amount so expended . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(b) Period during which it was expended . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(c) Average number for each day—							
A children . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
B aged persons . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
C infirm persons . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
Object I carried forward					18,151 1 0	811 9 0	7,941 6 3

Melghat.	Buldana.	Wun.	Basim.	Total.	REMARKS.
3,775 11 0	10,141 3 5	6,479 3 0	1,633 1 6	48,808 3 2	
31 days	.....	.....	.....	6 months	
45	1,595	.....	.....	1,960	
.....	321	.....	.....	321	
45	.....	.....	.....	45	
.....	
1	.....	.....	.....	3'1	
.....	.....	.....	8 0 6	8 0 6	
.....	.....	.....	1 month	1 month	
.....	.....	.....	22	22	
.....	.....	.....	Cannot be given as information of the number relieved each day is not available.	.....
.....	
.....	
.....	
202 15 0	4,933 7 6	.....	.....	5,261 6 6	
31 days.	7 months	.....	.....	.....
87 "	.....	.....	.....	87	
Valedictory doles to 87 persons.	2,000 monthly	.....	.....	2,000	
.....	63 1 0	.....	.....	63 1 0	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
3,978 10 0	15,137 11 11	6,479 3 0	1,641 2 0	54,140 11 2	

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE.		Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.
Object I brought forward		.....	R a. p. 54,140 11 2	.....
D.—OTHER RELIEF UNDER HEADING "OBJECT I"—such as assistance to wanderers, sending them to relief works or to their own villages. Grants made to poor people out of relief officers' imprests.				
Amraoti . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Akola . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ellichpur . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Melghat . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buldana . . .	* Payment to convicts	2 months	31 10 0	100
	Purchase of materials for constructing a <i>serai</i> at Nandura	.....	464 0 0	.....
Wun . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Basim . . .	Food	5 months	14 15 3	14
	Clothes	2 months	7 11 3	8
	TOTAL	9 months	518 4 6	122
	Total under object I . . . . .	.....	54,658 15 8	.....
OBJECT II.—ORPHANS.				
(i) Expenditure during the famine—				
Buldana . . .	Subsidies to orphanages	5 months 11 days	1,233 8 7	1,589
	Construction of orphanages . . . . .	.....	.....	.....
Amraoti . . .	Maintenance of orphans in Fund Orphanages (a) . . .	6 months 4 days	875 15 4	1,423
Ellichpur . . .	Ditto ditto ditto	From 1st April 1897 to 31st August 1897.	577 6 5	595 (From monthly returns).
	Conveyance of orphans to their homes . . . . .	.....	.....	.....
	Education of orphans . . . . .	.....	.....	.....
	Miscellaneous . . . . .	.....	.....	.....
	TOTAL . . . . .	.....	2,686 14 4	3,607
	Object II carried forward	.....	2,716 7 10	3,723

REMARKS.

* With regard to this the Honorary Secretary, Buldana, observes in his report thus :—

The prevailing scarcity led, as was only natural, to a great increase in petty crime for which the usual punishment awarded was a few strokes with the rattan. It was found that many of these criminals had no means to take them to their houses after they had suffered their punishment. Also in the Mehkar and Chikli Taluks some of the trying Magistrates were not empowered to inflict the punishment of whipping, so they used to forward the accused to the District Magistrate at Buldana. Thus batches of prisoners were brought into Buldana at distances of varying from 14 to 40 miles from their homes ; many of these also were without any visible means of subsistence. To meet such cases it was decided to allow some of the Magistrates of the District small advances from the fund to spend in giving assistance to these poor petty criminals. The payment was fixed @ Rs-2-0 for 12 miles. The first class Magistrates of Mehkar and Malkapur and Khan Bahadur Nawab Sallamulla Khan, Special Magistrate of Deulghat, had all advances given them for this purpose. In Buldana all the convicts were personally paid by me, their names and the amounts paid them being entered in a register and initialled by me. In all 100 persons at a total cost of Rs31-10-0 were assisted in this manner.

(a) Talegaon D	85 days.
Chandur	167 "
Amraoti Taluk	184 "
Murtizapur Taluk	72 "

Basim.

(ii) Number of orphans to whom clothes were given —

(a) The articles being sent from England	58
(b) The cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committee or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee	58
Details of expenditure specially upon orphan's clothing—	29 9 6

	Amraoti.	Akola.	Ellichpur.
Object II brought forward	875 15 4	.....	577 6 5
(iii) Relief after the famine—			
(a) Number of orphans already provided for—	.....	.....	.....
(b) Brief statement of arrangements made for maintenance till such orphans become self-supporting.*	.....	.....	.....
(c) Sum paid for such arrangements R	.....	.....	.....
* Here note particulars of the number of any orphans already known to the District Committee to have been adopted or taken to Charitable Orphanages, without any charge to the Fund.			
Total under object II	875 15 4	...	577 6 5
OBJECT III.			
A.—SUPPLY OF CLOTHING TO RESPECTABLE POOR, NOT IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF.			
(i) Number of persons to whom articles of clothing were given—	(b) 125	.....	.....
No. of persons.			
(a) The articles being sent from England	.....	.....	.....
(b) Ditto provided by the Provincial Committee.	.....	.....	.....
(c) The cloth or articles being purchased by the Local Committee or Sub-Committees, or by gentlemen provided with funds by the Local Committee.	125	.....	.....
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	125	.....	.....
NOTE—	R a. p.		
(1) Expenditure incurred under (c) above	64 13 6	.....	.....
(2) How much (1) was spent in purchasing from weavers	.....	.....	.....
(3) How much from petty shop-keepers	64 13 6	.....	.....
(4) How much from large cloth-dealers	.....	.....	.....
(a) Amount paid for their labour	.....	.....	.....
(b) Amount received by sale of the produce	.....	.....	.....
(c) Profit or loss to the Fund	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Work given out to be sold by the workers—			
(a) Nature of work given	.....	.....	.....
(b) Number of people supplied with materials	.....	.....	.....
(c) Amount expended	.....	.....	.....
C.—GRAIN OR COOKED FOOD DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR—			
(i) Period during which this relief was given	From 191 days to 177 days.	7 Months	From 1st July to 31st Aug. 1897.
(ii) Number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	1,162 families	(c) Average 2,256	3,135 (in monthly returns).
(iii) Rate of the doles	(a) $\frac{1}{2}$ seer to a man and $\frac{1}{4}$ seer to a child below 12.		$\frac{1}{2}$ seer.
(iv) At what intervals given	24 Hours.	7 Days.	Weekly.
(v) Amount expended	2,399 3 5	27,658 1 1	4,274 12 0
D.—MONEY DOLES TO RESPECTABLE POOR FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD—			
(i) Period during which this relief was given	From 160 days to 170 days.	.....	.....
(ii) Number (average, if necessary) of persons in receipt of doles.	194 families	.....	.....
(iii) Rates of the doles	R2 for adult and R1 for children below 12.	.....	.....
(iv) At what intervals given	Monthly	.....	.....
(v) Amount expended	1,101 9 9	.....	.....
Object III carried forward	3,565 10 8	27,658 1 1	4,274 12 0

Melghat.	Buldana.	Wun.	Basim.	Total.	REMARKS.
.....	1,233 8 7	29 9 6	2,716 7 10	(a) Ten Orphans are retained in charge of the Hospital Assistant, Chikhli. The Chikhli Committee states that provision for their maintenance will be made from the outstanding promised subscriptions.
.....	
.....	(a)	.....	.....	.....
.....	
.....	1,233 8 7	29 9 6	2,716 7 10	(b) The clothing was supplied in the Chandur Taluk only.
.....	.....	.....	253	378
.....	
.....	.....	.....	253	378
.....	253	378	
.....	.....	.....	256 5 5	321 2 11
.....	.....	.....	256 5 5	321 2 11
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	(b)	.....	From 1st May 1897 to 31st October 1897.	.....
.....	732	.....	180	7,465
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ seer at Malkapur and 14 oz. at Chikhli.	.....	Not given at fixed rates nor at fixed intervals.	.....
.....	4 days at Malkapur and 7 days at Chikhli.	.....	.....	.....
.....	1,994 12 5	.....	218 4 3	36,545 1 2
.....	.....	.....	1 month	6 ms. 15 days.
.....	.....	.....	1	195
.....	.....	.....	R1	.....
.....	
.....	.....	.....	1 0 0	1,102 9 9
.....	1,994 12 5	.. ..	475 9 8	37,968 13 10

	Amraoti.	Akola.	Ellichpur.
Object III brought forward	3,565 10 8	27,658 1 1	4,274 12 0
E.—CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS—			
(1) Number and localities of grain shops	8 1 Amraoti 2 Badnera 3 Kholapur 4 Thugaon 5 Bhatkuli 6 Walgaon 7 Nandgaon Peth. 8 Sendurjana.	1 Akola	5 1 Patwada. 2 Ellichpur. 3 Anjangaon. 4 Wanosa. 5 Saryapur
(2) Period during which relief was given	6 months	.....	From 1st July 1897 to 31st August 1897.
(3) Net amount expended from the Fund during that period.	10,163 4 6	2,500 0 0	81 8 0
(4) Excess of privileged rate over market rate (in seers or lbs. per rupee).	2 seers to 4 seers	.....	Cannot be ascertained.
(5) Average number of persons relieved during each month of the period.	8,4	.....	.....
Total under Object III	13,728 15 2	30,158 1 1	4,356 4 0
OBJECT IV.			
A.—PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT TO PROFESSIONAL WORKMEN.			
(i) Work given out to be returned to the Committee—			
(a) Nature of employment assisted	.....	.....	.....
(b) Number of people supplied with money or materials.	.....	.....	.....
(c) Cost of materials (or money advances)	.....	.....	.....
(d) Quantities of finished products returned by them	.....	.....	.....
(e) Amount paid for their labour	.....	.....	.....
(f) Amount received by sale of products	.....	.....	.....
B.—ASSISTANCE TOWARDS REBUILDING OR REPAIRING OF HOUSES.			
(i) Number of people assisted	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Causes of destruction of houses (fire, want, etc.)	.....	.....	.....
(iii) Amount expended	.....	.....	.....
C.—ASSISTANCE WHERE ONLY MONEY GRANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PROVISION OF CATTLE, SEED-GRAIN, etc., TO CULTIVATORS—			
(i) Number of cultivators assisted—	13	.....	.....
(ii) (Roughly) how many for purchase or hire of cattle alone	.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto of seed-grain alone	13	.....	.....
Ditto for fodder subsistence of cattle alone	.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto cultivator and family alone	.....	.....	.....
Ditto wages to labourers alone	.....	.....	.....
Ditto for more than one of the above objects	.....	.....	.....
Object IV carried forward—	.....	.....	.....

Melghat.	Buldana.	Wun.	Basim.	Total.	REMARKS.
.....	1,994 12 5	.....	475 9 8	37,968 13 10	
.....	.....	.....	.....	14	
.....	
.....	.....	.....	.....	12,744 12 6	
.....	
.....	.....	.....	.....	8,424	
.....	1,994 12 5	.....	475 9 8	50,713 10 4	
Cart builders .	.....	.....	.....	.....
20	.....	.....	.....	20	
Wood given free by Government and iron bought by makers.	.....	.....	.....	.....
44 carts .	.....	.....	.....	44 carts.	
880 0 0	.....	.....	.....	880 0 0	
The carts were issued to poor exporters.	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Mehkar Com- mittee only.	.....	.....	3	
.....	3	.....	.....	.....
.....	One was sold in auction in exe- cution of a decree, and the other two fell down on ac- count of heavy rains.	.....	.....	.....
.....	28 0 0	.....	.....	28 0 0	
164	409	.....	681	1,267	
164	25	.....	4	193	
.....	299	.....	648	960	
.....	
.....	.....	.....	29	29	
.....	44	.....	.....	44	
.....	41	.....	.....	41	
880 0 0	28 0 0	.....	.....	908 0 0	

					Amraoti.	Akola.	Ellichpur.
Object IV brought forward					.....	.....	.....
NOTE.—Each head of a family is only counted once even if his gift covers various items of expenditure.							
					R	a.	p.
(iii) Amount of gifts made					30	0	0
(iv) (Roughly) how much for purchase of cattle . .					.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto seed-grain					30	0	0
Ditto ditto subsistence of cattle . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto cultivator and family . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto wages to labourers . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
D.—ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS BY GRANTS IN KIND—							
(i) CATTLE—					R	a.	p.
(1) Number of cattle purchased . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(2) Price of ditto . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(3) Number of cultivators assisted by grants or loans of cattle (estimated) . . . . .					.....	.....	.....
(ii) SEED—							
(i) Quantity of seed purchased . . . . .					.....	Mds. 696	Sr. 22½
(ii) Price of ditto . . . . .					.....	4,053	9 8
(iii) Number of cultivators amongst whom distributed					.....	1,929	.....
E.—LOANS RECOVERABLE—							
(a) To agriculturists—							
(b) To others—					Amount	.....	.....
Amount					Amount	.....	.....
NOTE.—State number of persons to whom loans were given under each head.							
F.—OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER HEADING "OBJECT IV"—							
District.	Nature of expenditure.	Period of expenditure.	Amount of expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.			
Akola	Cheap grain to Weavers of Barsi Takli	Not given.	R a. p. 31 15 6	Not given.	.....	.....	.....
Melghat	Free issue of food for subsistence of cultivators till harvest	92 days	20,480 4 8	3,585	.....	.....	.....
	Cheap grain scale. Agriculturist labourers	214	3,546 1 6	16,066	.....	.....	.....
Buldana	Payments to artizans for purchase of implements	Not given.	66 0 0	6	.....	.....	.....
	TOTAL . . . . .	...	24,124 5 8	19,657	.....	.....	19,657
Total under Object IV					30 0 0	4,085 9 2	.....
OBJECT V.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
(a) Office and contingent expenditure					385 7 11	95 6 7	75 0 9
(b) Printing . . . . .					.....	.....	24 2 0
TOTAL					385 7 11	95 6 7	99 2 0
Grand Total of all the Objects					33,171 7 5	35,150 9 10	12,974 3 5

Melghat.	Buldana.	Wun.	Basim.	Total.	REMARKS.
880 0 0	28 0 0	.....	.....	908 0 0	
2,752 8 0	5,135 8 0	.....	6,503 0 0	14,421 0 0	
2,752 8 0	1,043 0 0	.....	94 0 0	3,889 8 0	
.....	3,768 8 0	.....	6,335 0 0	10,133 8 0	
.....	
.....	.....	.....	74 0 0	74 0 0	
.....	324 0 0	.....	.....	324 0 0	
790	.....	.....	63	853	
8,419 14 1	.....	.....	1,237 13 3	9,657 11 4	
.....	
600	.....	.....	37	637	
Mds. Srs. 2,105 35	.....	.....	Mds. Srs. 55 5	Mds. Srs. 2,857 22½	
12,757 2 2	.....	.....	293 4 0	17,103 15 10	
4,361	.....	.....	53	6,343	
700 0 0	359 0 0	.....	.....	1,059 0 0	
5 Hd. IV. (From his monthly return and vouchers).	9 Hd. IV. Mehkar Com- mittee has ad- vanced this amount to nine cultivators for purchase of seed-grain for the rabi crop after having taken their bonds binding them to repay it in April next.	.....	.....	14	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
49,535 14 5	5,588 8 0	.....	8,034 1 7	67,274 0 10	
.....	144 2 2	700 12 3	10 1 6	1,410 15 2	
.....	.....	.....	.....	24 2 0	
.....	144 2 2	700 12 3	10 1 6	1,435 1 2	
53,514 8 5	24,504 5 1	7,194 14 6	10,108 3 2	1,76,798 3 10	
Amount expended for which statistics were not kept				564 13 0	
GRAND TOTAL				1,77,363 0 10	

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,
R. N. MUDHOLKAR,
Honorary Secretaries, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Berar.

Province of Berar.

Abstract of persons relieved and sums spent.

District.	HEAD I.		HEAD II.		HEAD III.		HEAD IV.		MISCELLANEOUS.	REMARKS.
	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Persons.	Amount.	Amount.	
Amraoti	18,258	₹ 18,151 1 0	1,423	₹ 875 15 4	9,905	₹ 13,728 15 2	13	₹ 30 0 0	₹ 385 7 11	
Akola	600	811 9 0	.....	.....	15,793	30,158 1 1	1,929	4,085 9 2	95 6 7	
Ellichpur	5,717	7,941 6 3	595	577 6 5	3,135	4,356 4 0	.....	.....	99 2 9	
Melghat	2,447	3,978 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	24,801	49,535 14 5	.....
Buldana	12,862	15,633 5 11	1,589	1,233 8 7	732	1,994 12 5	427	5,588 8 0	144 2 2	
Wun	59,967	6,479 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	700 12 3	
Basim.	1,876	1,663 12 6	58	29 9 6	434	475 9 8	771	8,034 1 3	10 1 6	
TOTAL	1,01,727	54,658 15 8	3,665	2,716 7 10	29,999	50,713 10 4	27,941	67,274 0 10	1,435 1 2	
Provincial Committee				250 0 0					314 13 0	
				2,966 7 10					1,749 14 2	

This number does not represent the actual number of persons relieved (as required by instruction (a) to Form B) but evidently the number of doles given.

644
This number does not represent the actual number of persons relieved (as required by instruction (a) to Form B) but evidently the number of doles given.

NOTE.—Number of persons relieved has been calculated according to the instructions of the Central Committee, Calcutta, at the end of their Form B, an accompaniment to their Circular X. Q. dated the 16th September 1897.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,
R. N. MUDHOLKAR,
Honorary Secretaries,
Berar Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BERRAR.

Cash Account from the commencement of operations up to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Amount.		Amount.
1. Opening balance—	R a. p.	1. Under Object I	R a. p.
2. Remittances from Central Committee—	Nil.	2. Ditto II	54,658 15 8
From General Fund	1,10,000 0 0	3. Ditto III	2,966 7 10*
		4. Ditto IV	50,713 10 4
3. Local subscriptions for the Province—			67,274 0 10
(a) Collected directly by, or remitted to, the Provincial Committee	6,290 9 3	5. Miscellaneous—	
(b) Collected by District Committees for their own use (vide Form D, column 2)	80,895 12 7	(a) Provincial Committee	314 13 0
		(b) District Committees (vide Form E, column 5)	1,435 1 2
4. Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—	87,186 5 10		1,749 14 2
District Committees (vide Form D, column 4)	400 1 7	6. Closing balances—	
		(a) With Provincial Committee	6,510 12 3
		(b) With District Committees (vide Form E, column 7)	13,712 10 4
			20,223 6 7
	Total R		Total R
	1,97,586 7 5		1,97,586 7 5

includes the allotment of Rs50 made to Hyderabad Missionary Orphanage Institution.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,
R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

Honorary Secretaries,

Berar Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

FORM D.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BERAR.

STATEMENT of Receipts of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

RECEIPTS.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.		COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.
		Opening Balances.	Local subscriptions for the district.	Remittances from Provincial and other Fund Committees.	Other Receipts, Miscellaneous.	Total Receipts.
		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1	Amraoti . . . . .	.....	25,066 7 0	9,515 0 0	12 4 4	34,593 11 4
2	Akola . . . . .	.....	15,271 0 0	26,000 0 0	.....	41,271 0 0
3	Ellichpur (excluding Melghat) . . . . .	.....	6,627 12 6	6,700 0 0	.....	13,327 12 6
4	Melghat . . . . .	.....	.....	55,000 0 0	.....	55,000 0 0
5	Buldana . . . . .	.....	20,155 1 6	5,000 0 0	80 6 6	25,235 8 0
6	Wun . . . . .	.....	7,563 1 3	.....	307 6 9	7,870 8 0
7	Basim . . . . .	.....	6,212 6 4	7,000 0 0	.....	13,212 6 4
TOTAL R . . . . .		.....	80,895 12 7	1,09,215 0 0	400 1 7	1,90,510 14 2

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,

R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

*Honorary Secretaries,**Berar Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

FORM E.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BERAR.

STATEMENT of Expenditure of the District Committees working under the Provincial Committee from the commencement of the Fund to the 31st October 1897.

PAYMENTS.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COLUMN 1.	COLUMN 2.	COLUMN 3.	COLUMN 4.	COLUMN 5.	COLUMN 6.	COLUMN 7.	COLUMN 8.
	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing balance ^a	TOTAL.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
1 Amraoti	18,151 1 0	875 15 4	13,728 15 2	30 0 0	385 7 11	33,171 7 5	1,422 3 11	34,593 11 4
2 Akola	811 9 0	.....	30,158 1 1	4,085 9 2	95 6 7	35,150 9 10	6,120 6 2	41,271 0 0
3 Ellichpur (excluding Melghat) (a)	7,941 6 3	577 6 5	4,356 4 0	.....	99 2 9	12,974 3 5	353 9 1	13,327 12 6
4 Melghat	3,978 10 0	.....	.....	49,535 14 5	.....	53,514 8 5	1,485 7 7	55,000 0 0
5 Buldana	15,633 5 11	1,233 8 7	1,994 12 5	5,588 8 0	144 2 2	24,594 5 1	641 2 11	25,235 8 0
6 Wun	6,479 3 0	.....	.....	.....	700 12 3	7,179 15 3	690 8 9	7,870 8 0
7 Basim	1,663 12 6	29 9 6	475 9 8	8,034 1 3	10 1 6	10,213 2 5	2,999 3 11	13,212 6 4
TOTAL R	54,658 15 8	2,716 7 10	50,713 10 4	67,274 0 10	1,435 1 2	1,76,798 3 10	13,712 10 4	1,90,510 14 2

(a) The Ellichpur Committee have shown their expenditure up to 31st August only. The expenditure incurred by the Committee after the 31st August 1897 will be shown in this Committee's final report.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,

R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

*Honorary Secretaries,**Berar Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BERAR.

Final Balance Sheet.

RECEIPTS.		Amount.	EXPENDITURE.		Amount.
	R a. p.	R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.
1. Opening Balance on 1st November 1897—			1. Under Object I	.	3,671 8 2
(a) With Provincial Committee	6,510 12 3		2. " II	.	4,352 7 7
(b) With District Committees.	13,712 10 4		3. " III	.	3,219 13 8
		20,223 6 7	4. " IV	.	3,733 13 3
2. Receipts from the 1st November 1897 to the 31st January 1898—			5. Miscellaneous—		
Collected by District Committees for their own use	.....	1,582 14 6	(a) Provincial Committee	.	108 13 0
			(b) District Committees	.	310 0 0
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	.	15,396 7 8
3. Other receipts (Miscellaneous)—			Closing Balances—		
District Committees	.....	1,308 11 11	(a) With Provincial Committee	.	901 15 3
			(b) With District Committees	.	8,994 4 5
			Deduct—Amount which the District Committee, Ellichpur, expended during September and October 1897, but which was not remitted owing to insufficient balance with the Provincial Committee	.	9,896 3 8
					2,177 10 4*
			TOTAL R	.	7,718 9 4
					23,115 1 0

* This amount was remitted by the Berar Provincial Committee to the Ellichpur District Committee on the 14th February 1898.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN,

R. N. MUDHOLKAR,

Honorary Secretaries,

Berar Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

No. 275-C.

FROM

H. S. BARNES, Esq., I.C.S., C.S.I.,
Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan,

TO

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,
Calcutta.

Dated Camp Sibi, the 17th January 1898.

SIR,

With reference to my letter No. 7733, dated the 25th November 1897, I have the honour to forward, herewith, for the information of the * No. 3119, dated the 22nd December Central Committee, a copy of a letter * from the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, and of its enclosures, being the report of the District Committee regarding the distribution of the allotment of R 20,000 made by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for the relief of distress in this Agency.

2. I concur in the observations contained in the Revenue Commissioner's letter which show that the duty of distributing the sum allotted for the relief of distress in the Thal-Chotiali district was carefully and satisfactorily discharged by the officers to whom it was entrusted.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. S. BARNES,
Agent to the Governor-General.

Copy of a letter No. 3119, dated the 22nd December 1897, from the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan.

In reply to your endorsement No. 7784, dated the 25th November 1897, I have the honour to forward copy* of a report, with enclosures, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali, regarding the distribution of the allotment of Rs20,000 received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

* Letter No. 7393, dated the 5th December 1897.

2. It will be seen that in all 715 persons were relieved from this sum of money, and that the whole amount was given in grants of money for the provision of cattle and seed-grain, while 125 persons were granted allotments for the maintenance of themselves and families through the cold weather. The average money dole for all purposes works out to a fraction under Rs28 per head. It may be thought that a larger number of persons might have been relieved with the grant from the Famine Fund, but it seems that the cases for relief were selected with much care; and it is satisfactory to note that the Assistant Political Agent himself in the Barkhan Tahsil, and the Extra Assistant Commissioner of the Duki and Sibi Tahsils, themselves made personal enquiries into every case, and the money was paid direct, under unquestionably reliable supervision, into the hands of the sufferers.

3. The transfer of Rs42-8-0 from Barkhan to Sibi referred to in paragraph 2 of the Deputy Commissioner's forwarding letter may, of course, be sanctioned.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel Gaisford's remarks about Lieutenant Winter's work in the distribution of this relief in Barkhan, are quoted below, and I am very glad to endorse what he has said in praise of this officer's energy in the matter:—

“He has been to every village in Barkhan himself, and to many of them twice. He has visited the houses of nearly every man he has relieved, and has seen with his own eyes exactly what the man's state was. He was engaged in this work the whole of October and November. It was very hot at first, and he was out all day and every day.”

Copy of a letter No. 7393, dated the 5th December 1897, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan.

In continuation of previous correspondence regarding the distribution of the allotment of Rs20,000 received from the Indian Famine Relief Fund, I have the honour to forward herewith a final report on the subject, giving all the information, accounts, etc., required.

2. The Assistant Political Agent, after providing for all the most urgent cases in Barkhan, was left with an unexpended balance of Rs42-8-0, and this amount was remitted to the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sibi, and has been distributed to the most deserving cases, which he, with his previous allotment of Rs3,000, had not been able to relieve.

3. As the matter was urgent, and the amount a small one, action was taken in anticipation of your sanction.

REPORT.

In spite of the severe drought, which has prevailed during the last two years in the Thal-Chotiali district, where the rainfall is even in favourable years very small, there has been no actual famine, although there has been considerable scarcity as far as all food supplies are concerned.

That there has been nothing more than extreme scarcity can be accounted for by the fact that the greater portion of the cultivation on which the people depend for their livelihood, is irrigated from streams, springs and underground channels called “Karazes” which have, in spite of the drought, provided a supply of water for irrigation purposes, and which, though very limited, has been sufficient to prevent the total failure of the crops. The distress generally caused throughout the district by scarcity has been most acute in the Barkhan Tahsil, where the rabi crop of 1896-97 was very seriously damaged by a severe hail-storm, and this year's “Kharif” crop has, in two circles of the Tahsil, been almost totally destroyed by locusts. In ordinary years, the country is covered with grass and affords very large areas for grazing. Owing to the drought during the last two years, and the almost complete failure of the winter rains last year, there has practically been no grass in the district at all, and the result has been an enormous mortality amongst the flocks and herds. The most serious loss, and the one which has most affected the people of the district, has been the loss sustained among their plough-cattle, of which, after careful enquiries were made, it has been ascertained that at least a third have succumbed to starvation. The heaviest losses occurred in the Sibi, Duki, and Barkhan Tahsils, the mortality returns being longest in Barkhan.

2. All the "Patwaris" of the abovementioned Tahsils were directed to make the most thorough enquiries in each village and ascertain, and make careful lists of the exact losses of cattle sustained by each cultivator. As soon as these lists were completed, the Tahsildar of each Tahsil was ordered to make further enquiries, and personally investigate, and make a detailed report on, each case.

General selection of persons recommended for relief.

I. Duki Tahsil.

3. The Extra Assistant Commissioner, Duki, proceeded on tour and made searching enquiries into the merits of each case recommended for relief; and from personal enquiries selected cases which were worthy of relief and which had been previously overlooked. The Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, then collected the Sardars, the maliks of every village, and all the cultivators recommended for relief at various places, and ascertained which were the cases in most urgent need of assistance, and made selections accordingly.

Special selection of persons relieved.

II. Barkhan Tahsil.

The Assistant Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, proceeded on tour, and visited, with a few exceptions, all the villages in which distress existed, and carefully investigated every case, recommended for relief by the Tahsildar; and from personal enquiries, and by consulting the Maliks and Mukadims, made further selections. In order to gain accurate information on the true circumstances of each case, as far as possible, the hut or habitation of each cultivator was visited and inspected.

III. Sibi Tahsil.

The method adopted by the Extra Assistant Commissioner in the selection of those to whom relief was given, has been in every respect similar to that employed by the Assistant Political Agent in Barkhan.

4. Owing to the nature of the distress as already explained, which existed in the district, the grant of Rs20,000 has been all expended on Object IV (c); and for the most part in money grants for the purchase of bullocks.

Account of relief administered.

Each case was carefully considered; the loss of bullocks, the area of the holdings, and the cultivator's general indebtedness being taken into consideration, in fixing the amounts given.

Grants for bullocks.

A cultivator, who had lost all his bullocks, and whose credit was exhausted, received a sufficient grant to enable him to purchase at least one pair of bullocks. Very few cases on final enquiry being made, were found, in which the cultivator had not been able to procure seed-grain on credit from the native grain-dealer. Such cultivators were given grants for the provision of seed-grain.

Grants for seed.

Grants to assist cultivators in maintaining themselves and their family during the cold weather were only given in cases, where great distress was found to exist, due either to the destruction of the kharif crops by locusts, or the failure of the rabi crops from drought.

Grants for maintenance.

5. The method adopted for the distribution of the money has been the same in all three tahsils, viz., the cultivators, finally selected for relief, were collected at the most convenient place, and the money counted out and paid over to them by the Political Agent in Duki, the Assistant Political Agent in Barkhan, and the Extra Assistant Commissioner in Sibi.

Manner in which money was distributed.

6. As the actual relief operations, viz., the distribution of the money-grants, were, with two exceptions, begun and completed during the month of November, only one final statement of accounts has been prepared and submitted.*

Winding up of relief operations.

Statements A and B are enclosed herewith.

G. GAISFORD, *Lieut.-Col.*,
Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali.

* Blank portions are omitted.

BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.

FORM A.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements in the District of Thal-Chotiali from the commencement up to the 3rd December 1897.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	R a. p.		R a. p.
Remitted by the Central Committee through the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan .	20,000 0 0	Under Object IV	20,000 0 0
TOTAL .	20,000 0 0	TOTAL .	20,000 0 0

G. GAISFORD, *Lieut.-Col.*,
Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali.

FORM B.

I. F. C. R. FUND, THAL-CHOTIALI DISTRICT.

Statement showing details of relief operations from the commencement up to the 3rd December 1897.

OBJECT IV.

		REMARKS.
Total number of cultivators assisted—	715	
For purchase of cattle alone	321	
Ditto of seed-grain alone	17	
For maintenance of cultivator and family alone	124	
For more than one of the above objects	253	
TOTAL .	715	
NOTE.—Each head of a family is only counted once.		
	R a. p.	
Amount of gifts made	20,000 0 0	
For purchase of cattle	17,532 8 0	
Ditto seed-grain	691 0 0	
For subsistence of cultivator and family	1,776 8 0	
TOTAL R .	20,000 0 0	

G. GAISFORD, *Lieut.-Col.*,
Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali.

REPORT OF RAJPUTANA BRANCH.

No. 271-G, of 1898.

FROM

THE FIRST ASSISTANT AGENT TO THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL,
Rajputana.

To

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Dated Abu, 7th February 1898.

SIR,

I am directed to refer to paragraph 2 of the letter noted on the margin, regarding the filling in of the forms of account
From the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to your address, C to E appended to Circular No. XQ, dated 16th No. 325, dated 27th January 1898. September 1897, from your office.

2. I am to say that no Provincial Committee was formed for Rajputana. Of the grant of Rs25,000 made to this agency, Rs19,000 were originally allotted to the Jaisalmer and Rs6,000 to the Tonk State. The former Durbar subsequently surrendered Rs10,000, of which Rs4,000 were transferred to Tonk, making the total grant to that State Rs10,000, and the balance of Rs6,000 was refunded to the Central Committee at Calcutta* in accordance with the request contained in the Hon'ble Mr. James' letter, No. 1681, dated 14th September 1897. The Resident, Western Rajputana States, has furnished you with accounts in regard to the application of the Rs9,000 received by Jaisalmer, and similar details have been or will be supplied by the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, with respect to the Rs10,000 assigned to the Tonk Durbar.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

F. E. YOUNGHUSBAND, *Captain,*
For First Assistant Agent to the Governor General,
Rajputana.

* In addition sums amounting to Rs1,877-0-11, which were not required were also refunded.

EXTRACT FROM THE FAMINE REPORT FOR RAJPUTANA.

Communicated by the First Assistant Agent to the Governor-General.

Rajputana has an area of 127,626 square miles and is therefore somewhat larger than the United Kingdom (including Ireland). It is divided by the Arvalli Range diagonally from south-west to north-east into two regions entirely distinct in their natural characteristics. That portion lying to the north-west of the range containing about three-fifth of the total area of Rajputana is, with the exception of the submontane region, lying immediately below the Arvalli, generally sandy, ill-watered, and unproductive; these unfavourable conditions becoming more pronounced the further west one proceeds. The south-western portion, on the other hand, is blessed with a good rainfall, a fertile soil and (in parts) with extensive forest tracts where fodder and fuel are plentiful.

The population was enumerated in 1891 at 12,220,343 which gives a mean square mile density of 95·8, though if the desert tract of the Jaisalmer State were excluded the mean density would be 108·5. Compared with the densities of population of the neighbouring Provinces the density of Rajputana stands as follows:—

North-Western Provinces	
Punjab	413
Bombay Presidency	169
Central India	150·8
Native States in Bombay Presidency collectively	131·9
Native States in the Punjab collectively	116·7
Rajputana	111
	95·8

The square mile density of the different States which go to form Rajputana varies from 7·2 in Jaisalmer, 35·9 in Bikanir and 72·1 in Marwar to 242·5 in Dholpore, 244·2 in Alwar and 323 in Bhurtpore.

The two divisions of Rajputana owe much of their distinctive characteristics to the difference in the amount of rainfall which they enjoy, for whereas the Eastern division has an average annual rainfall of 28·4 inches, in the Western division the average is but 11·8, Jaisalmer and parts of Bikanir receiving 7 and 8 inches only. The recent Famine was caused by a deficiency in even this small amount which falls to Rajputana and the following table will clearly indicate the variation from the normal rainfall which occurred during the last three years:—

	January to February.	March to May.	June to October.	November to December.	Whole year.
1895.					
North-West Rajputana	—0·1	—0·18	—3·06	—0·04	—3·38
South-East Rajputana	+0·53	—0·08	—8·37	—0·13	—8·05
1896.					
North-West Rajputana	—0·3	—0·5	—1·1	+0·8	—1·1
South-East Rajputana	—0·4	—0·6	—8·6	+1·0	—8·6
1897.					
North-West Rajputana	—0·5	—0·54	+2·25	...	...
South-East Rajputana	—0·51	—0·34	—3·82	...	...

The deficit in Western Rajputana amounted in 1895 to 30 per cent. of the total rainfall and in 1896 to 11 per cent.; while in the Eastern division the deficit amounted to 31 per cent. in 1895 and 30 per cent. in 1896. By 1897 normal conditions were nearly re-established, though the fall in Eastern Rajputana was still deficient. The general effect of this deficiency upon the

Province as a whole will first be shown and afterwards a more detailed account will be given of the condition of those states in which the scarcity caused by a failure of the crops due to the deficient rainfall was most keenly felt.

In Bikanir the failure of the crops in 1896-97 with the successive bad seasons of the three previous years and the high prices of food grains caused the distress which almost deepened into famine. The pressure was most severe in the Southern Nizamat and some of the adjoining Tahsils with a total population of 4,58,313 souls. The effect, however, of the failure of the autumn harvests in Bikanir and Jaisalmer was not so disastrous as it would have been in countries more favourably situated. In both States there is practically only one harvest in the year. The people cannot therefore rely for a livelihood solely on the cultivation of their fields. They must even in a good year have recourse to other means of earning money. Many migrate to adjoining Native States and British Districts and cultivate land for the spring crops, work as labourers or earn money by letting their camels on hire. If therefore the harvest fails in their own country they have other ways of earning a subsistence, and moreover they are accustomed to bad seasons and to making provision for themselves when the produce of their own fields is insufficient for their support.

The whole of the Tonk State suffered from high prices. Scarcity rates prevailed from February to August 1897. No special features connected with the famine are noticeable in any of the Parganas except Sironj which has suffered from a series of bad years and where the effects of famine are said to be manifest.

In Bhurtpur famine rates prevailed for the greater part of 1897. The southern portion of the State suffered most, but the pressure was not severely felt as the extensive organization of the Public Works Department provided almost an unlimited supply of work. In the Northern Parganas of Gopalgarh and of Deeg where there was much irrigation and the crops were good, the relief works attracted little or no labour.

The condition of the Dholpur State was more serious as the rainfall was deficient over the whole of the State. The irrigated area is small and cultivation depends to a great extent on the rainfall. The feature of the harvest was consequently extensive and general throughout the State. Besides this the Administrative Establishment of Dholpur is weak and there is no Executive Engineer with a well organised Department of Public Works as in Bhurtpur ready to deal with the distress caused by a famine.

JAISALMER STATE.

No. 325.

FROM

THE RESIDENT, WESTERN RAJPUTANA STATES,

TO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,

*Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,**Calcutta.**Dated Jodhpur, 27th January 1898.*

SIR,

In compliance with the request contained in your letter No. 2212, dated 28th December 1897, I have the honour to enclose Statements* A and B, which embody, it is believed, the information required in Circular No. X Q, dated 16th September 1897, from this Agency, regarding the charitable relief operations recently concluded in the Native State of Jaisalmer.

2. It is understood that Forms C to E referred to in the Circular X Q cited above will be filled in by the Office of the Agent to the Governor General for Rajputana, and forwarded direct to you.

3. If the information now supplied is defective in any respect, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to let me know what further details are required, and I will endeavour to furnish them. The scope of the charitable relief operations in Jaisalmer was, as will be observed, so limited, that probably no other particulars will be needed.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. MARTINDALE, C. S.,

Offg. Resident, Western Rajputana States.

* These are embodied in the Statements which follow.

TONK STATE.

No. 1872 of 1897.

To

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.
 10, Hare Street,
 Calcutta.

Camp, 3rd December 1897.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 1712, dated the 8th ultimo, and with special reference to paragraph 2 thereof, I have the honour to forward in forms A and B* as appended to your Circular X Q, the final accounts of the grant of Rs 10,000 received from your Fund by the Tonk State. Forms C, D and E do not appear to be applicable. I attach also a report received from the State prepared in conformity with paragraph 7 of the same.

2. The Tonk Durbar in forwarding to me the report make the following observations:—

“This grant proved a valuable aid in carrying relief operations in the State to a successful conclusion. It has done immense good to the poor in the way of petty comforts, especially in providing them with clothing, without which the present cold weather would have caused incalculable distress. The Durbar request you to convey their sincere thanks in adequate terms to the Central Executive Committee.”

3. I have the honour accordingly to convey the sincere thanks of the Tonk Durbar to the Committee for the grant made to the Tonk State. I can testify myself to the great value of the relief rendered from the grant.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. TUCKER,

Political Agent in Haraoti and Tonk.

* These are embodied in the statements which follow.

*Report called for in the Indian Famine Central Committee's Circular
X Q, dated 16th September 1897, paragraph 7.*

A grant of Rs10,000 was received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for supplementing charitable relief measures in Tonk. The expenditure therefrom is shown in Form A, and the statistical information in Form B.

2. Tonk State consists of six parganas, all of which are separated from each other, and three of which are in Rajputana, while three are scattered over Central India. In Rajputana the soil is generally fertile, especially where irrigated, and in Central India there is more hill and jungle, especially in the large pargana of Sironj. There is but one considerable town in the State, and that is Tonk itself, where the population is upwards of 47,000. This includes a large number of petty artisans and others who do not mainly depend on land for their support. Elsewhere, population may be said to be entirely agricultural. It is mainly Hindu, but in Tonk itself there is a substantial Musalman population. The cultivating classes, who have fields of their own, are fairly well-to-do, although, speaking generally, the three seasons that preceded this year of famine have been indifferent. In Sironj the people generally are more poverty-stricken than elsewhere in the State. What may be called the floating population who have not fields of their own and who earn their livelihood by daily hired labour, are apt to move in time of distress and scarcity to any other State or locality where they may see a prospect of labour being more easily obtainable than in their homes; but there can hardly be said to be any special custom under which they regularly leave their own villages and move elsewhere every year.

3. The chief harvests in Tonk are the *kharif*, which includes *makka*, *jowar*, and *bajra*, and the *rabi*, which includes barley, wheat, and gram. Sironj is dependent especially on its *rabi* crop.

4. The *kharif* crop was generally sown in 1896-97, and its prospects were fair until August 1896, when rains ceased. The break was prolonged well into September, after which the fall was exceedingly light. The *kharif* crops withered on the stalk. The *rabi* sowings were generally narrowed. A few slight showers in December did some slight good, but on the whole, except in irrigated lands, the *rabi* crop failed entirely, while the *kharif* crop, as above stated, was three parts an entire failure. The result was a heavy rise in the prices of food-grains which commenced in August 1896, and showed no signs of improvement until the end of September 1897. During this period prices generally were three or four times higher than in ordinary years, and the poorer people who had nothing to fall back upon were left largely destitute and helpless.

5. In Tonk city, besides the measures of relief undertaken by the State, a Committee was formed of the principal citizens by whom funds were collected and administered in relief as early as February 1897. It was in Tonk city, with its large population, that pressure was heaviest. Similar steps were taken on a smaller scale in Sironj and Pirawa from June and July respectively.

6. A grant of Rs10,000 was obtained from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund in April 1897, and the amount was made available for expenditure in May 1897. This grant made by the Fund was used in the objects laid down by the Committee. The Tonk State provided relief works and made grants for gratuitous relief to those who were infirm and unable to work and who were mainly collected in the town of Tonk itself. The fund subscribed by the citizens of Tonk (and also that raised in Sironj and Pirawa) was applied to gratuitous relief. It was to supplementing that relief that the grant obtained from the Fund was applied. Those relieved, as already stated, were infirm and destitute. They comprised men, women, and children of all ages, the sick, the lame and the blind; and both Hindus and Musalmans enjoyed the relief provided by the Fund, and *purda* women were also relieved.

7. The distribution of warm clothing among the respectable poor was another leading feature of the relief given. There has been every reason to believe that much distress and misery has been avoided or mitigated by the benefaction received from this Fund.

8. Tonk city itself was divided into eight wards or circles of relief, each of which was presided over by a member of the Committee. Those gentlemen rendered excellent service in the orderly and regular distribution of the relief given by the State and citizens, supplemented by the grant made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Fortunately the

* Except in Sironj.

A. T. season was healthy * though hot, and no sort of disease manifested itself among those who were in receipt of relief.

9. The grant of Rs 10,000 made by the Fund was utilised on three of the four objects laid down by the Committee, as below:—

						R	a.	p.
Object No.	I	.	.	.	.	7,201	15	2
" "	II	.	.	.	.	1,346	12	9
" "	III	.	.	.	.	1,451	4	1
TOTAL R						10,000	0	0

The relief granted under Object I comprised a cash dole of about 4 annas per head per month for petty comforts and a suit of clothing and some miscellaneous charges; that under Object II comprised food and clothing to orphans and a grant of a small bonus to a few of the friends or fellow castemen who undertook the care of orphans after the relief operations were closed. That administered under Object III was the distribution of warm clothing to 600 respectable poor persons.

10. The Fund was wound up on the 15th of October 1897, by which time the allotment of Rs 10,000 had been exhausted and State relief ceased. The rains of the season 1897-98, although their commencement was long delayed and grave anxiety was felt until the end of July 1897, at last proved timely and seasonable. The *kharif* harvest of the current season has already proved excellent, and the prospects of the *rabi* harvest are fair.

دستخط محمد علي خان

Central Officer, Tonk.

Copy.

A. TUCKER,
Political Agent in Tonk.

FORM B.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

Particulars of the Charitable Fund Expenditure in RAJPUTANA.

PARTICULARS OF RELIEF.	Tonk State. Number of persons.	Expenditure in Tonk State.	Total expenditure in Tonk under each object.	Jaisalmer. Number of persons.	Expenditure in Jaisalmer.	Total expenditure in Jaisalmer under each object.	REMARKS.
UNDER OBJECT I—		<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>		<i>R a. p.</i>	<i>R a. p.</i>	
(a) Number of persons in receipt of Government relief to whom articles of clothing or blankets were given.	2,218	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Cost of clothing, etc. . . . .	...	1,830 5 3	...	...	...	...
(c) Supplementing the Government dole in gratuitous relief :—							
(i) Total amount so expended . . .	...	4,892 13 6	...	...	...	...
(ii) Period during which it was expended.	...	...	...	...	...	...	16th May to 15th October 1897.
(iii) Total number of payments made.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.
(iv) Average number of persons whose dole was increased.	2,490	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Assistance to wanderers, sending them to Relief works or to their own villages :—							
(i) Period of expenditure . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	Three and half months.
(ii) Amount expended. . . . .	...	478 12 5	...	...	...	...
(iii) Number of persons relieved . .	2,490	...	...	...	...	...
(e) TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN TONK STATE UNDER OBJECT I.	...	...	7,201 15 2	...	...	...
UNDER OBJECT II.—EXPENDITURE ON ORPHANS :—							
(a) Number of orphans	313	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Amount expended . . . . .	...	1,346 12 9	...	...	...	...
(c) Period of expenditure . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	Three and half months.
(d) TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN TONK STATE UNDER OBJECT II.	...	...	1,346 12 9	...	...	...
UNDER OBJECT III—							
(a) Number of persons not in receipt of Government relief to whom articles of clothing were given.	600	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Cost of clothing . . . . .	...	1,451 4 1	...	...	...	...
TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN TONK STATE UNDER OBJECT III.	...	...	1,451 4 1	...	...	...
UNDER OBJECT IV (IN JAISALMER ONLY)—							
Assistance rendered to cultivators by the provision of cattle, seed-grain, etc.—							
(a) Number of persons assisted by grants in money alone.	...	...	...	69	...	...
(b) Number of persons assisted by gifts in kind alone.	...	...	...	38	...	...
(c) Number of persons assisted by grants of money as well as of kind.	...	...	...	179	...	...
(d) TOTAL AMOUNT EXPENDED IN GRANTS UNDER OBJECT IV.	...	...	...	...	7,122 15 1	7,122 15 1	
TOTALS UNDER ALL OBJECTS . . .	8,111	10,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	286	7,122 15 1	7,122 15 1	

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

RAJPUTANA AGENCY.

Cash Account from the commencement of Operations up to the 31st October 1897.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	TONK	STATE.	R a. p.
Amount received from the Central Committee and forwarded by the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana to the Political Agent in Haraoti and Tonk	R a. p. 10,000 0 0	Expenditure under Object I Ditto II Ditto III	7,201 15 2 1,346 12 9 1,451 4 1
	R 10,000 0 0		R 10,000 0 0
	JAISALMER	STATE.	R a. p.
Net amount received from the Central Committee and forwarded by the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana to the Resident, Western Rajputana States	R a. p. 7,122 15 1	انيس كارواني قسط سالي تنك محمد علي خان Central Officer, Tonk. Expenditure under Object IV	7,122 15 1
	R 7,122 15 1		R 7,122 15 1
TOTAL RAJPUTANA R	17,122 15 1	A. MARTINDALE, I.C.S., Resident, Western Rajputana States. TOTAL RAJPUTANA R	17,122 15 1

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897. PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Final Balance Sheet.

Receipts.	Amount.		Expenditure.		Amount.
	R	a. p.	R	a. p.	R a. p.
1. OPENING BALANCE ON 1st NOVEMBER 1897					
(a) With Provincial Committee	2,027	4 6	1. UNDER OBJECT I	1,10,159	4 1
(b) With District Committees	4,24,322	1 11	2. " " II	1,407	10 4
			3. " " III	31,120	0 6
			4. " " IV	2,90,299	3 0
			5. MISCELLANEOUS	6,547	3 5
2. RECEIPTS FROM THE 1st NOVEMBER 1897 TO THE 31st JANUARY 1898 :—			TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,39,593 5 4
(a) Remittances from Central Committee	40,076	10 0			
(b) Receipts from other sources	38,486	12 9	CLOSING BALANCES—		
			(a) With Provincial Committee	326	5 5
			(b) With District Committees	61,993	2 5
					65,319 7 10
			TOTAL R		5,04,912 13 2

BHARGOW RAO,
Honorary Secretary,
Central Provinces Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

BENGAL BRANCH.

DATED THE CUSTOM HOUSE,
Calcutta, the 23rd February 1898.

No. 1564.

FROM

E. N. BAKER, Esq., O. S.,
*Honorary Secretary, Bengal Branch,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

TO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARY,
*Central Committee,
Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

SIR,

With reference to your demi-official letter of the 19th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a statement showing the distribution on behalf of your Committee of the clothing which was sent out by charitable persons in England, America, and elsewhere in aid of famine relief.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

E. N. BAKER,
Honorary Secretary

Statement showing distribution on behalf of the Central Committee of the clothing which was sent out by charitable persons in England, America, and elsewhere in aid of famine relief.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

<i>Bilaspur</i>	{ 33 veils from bale H $\frac{583}{3}$, List No. 1. 27 pieces cotton prints from bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List No. 1.
<i>Balaghat</i>	{ 12 pieces calico from bale H $\frac{584}{4}$, List No. 1. 40 veils from the case received from Mrs. C. M. Frizell, Honorary President, Y. W. C. A. Singapore.
<i>Khandwa</i>	{ 20 pieces flannelette 57½ yards' old veiling } From bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List No. 1. 50 yards new do.
To Mrs. E. Vardon, M. E. Mission <i>Khandwa</i>	{ 2 packages out of 17 packages received from Mrs. J. Hauser, Delaware, Ohio, U. S. A.
<i>Nagpur</i>	{ 4 parcels materials for trousers } From bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List 8 do. do. for chadars } No. 1. 12 pieces cotton prints " " $\frac{584}{4}$, "
<i>Jabalpur</i>	2 bales, H 54 and 55, List No. 2.
<i>Raipur</i>	1 bale, H 58 " " 2.
<i>Saugor</i>	1 bale, H 853 " " 9.
<i>Hoshangabad</i>	1 bale, H 854 " " 9.
	{ 2 bales H 52 and 57, List No. 2. 2 bales H 268 and 269 " 3. 1 bale H $\frac{890}{10}$ " 4. 2 bales H 488 and 491 " 5. 2 bales H 521 and 522 " 6. 1 bale H 660 " 7. 1 bale H 974. Less the smaller bale sent inside it addressed to Miss Wahl, Zenana Mission, Lucknow, List No. 11.
	1 bale, List No. 14. 1 bale " 15. 1 bale " 16. 1 bale " 17. Less a package sent inside it addressed to Miss Luce, Zenana Mission House, Sultanpur, Oudh.
To Honorary Secretary, <i>Central Provinces Branch</i> , for distribution in Central Provinces.	1 case received from Mrs. Trevithick, Cairo, Egypt, Central Committee's letter No. 2121, dated 1st December 1897. 1 case received from Liverpool Famine Clothing Fund. } Central Committee's letter No. 2096, dated 25th Nov. 1897. 1 bale received from Mrs. John A. Rapsay, of Trinidad. } 1 case received from Buddhist priests and laymen in Ceylon (Central Committee's letter No. 2171, dated 11th December 1897). 8 packages out of 17 packages received from Mrs. J. Hauser, of Delaware, Ohio, U. S. A.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

	{ 28 flannel skirts } From bale H $\frac{581}{1}$, List No. 1. 12 cotton do. }
	{ 26 flannel skirts 35 cotton do. } From bale H $\frac{583}{3}$, List No. 1. 2 flannel do. child's 3 cotton do. do.
<i>Gorakhpur</i>	{ 12 parcels of clothing 33 lace curtains from bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List No. 1. 3 old muslin chadars. 6 " lace curtains. 7 parcels unmade calico jackets. 2 old linen sheets. 1 box cotton and needle }
	{ From bale H $\frac{584}{4}$, List No. 1.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH—*contd.*

<i>Cawnpur</i>	{	53 cotton skirts from bale H $\frac{581}{1}$, List No. 1.
		44 skirts from the case received from Mrs. C. M. Frizell, Honorary President, Y. W. C. A., Singapore.
		$\frac{1}{2}$ of bale H 275, List No. 3.
<i>Etah</i>	{	3 parcels materials for children's koortas from bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List No. 1.
		20 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards serge from bale H $\frac{584}{4}$, List No. 1.
<i>Hamirpur</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale, H 50, List No. 2.
	.	1 bale, H 1001, " " 8.
<i>Jalaun</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale, H 51, " " 2.
	.	1 bale, H 1003, " " 8.
<i>Allahabad</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale, H 53, " " 2.
To Revd. J. P. Duncan, St. John's Parsonage, Allahabad.		{ 1 case out of 2 cases received from Mrs. Hauser. (Central Committee's letter No. 2338, dated 10th February 1898.)
To Miss Fallon, Couverts' Home, Allahabad.		{ 1 small bale addressed to Miss Fallon and sent inside bale H 1200, List No. 13.
To Revd. R. Clanoy, Allahabad		{ 1 package out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.
<i>Jhansi</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale H 56, List No. 2.
<i>Banda</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale H 59, " " 2.
<i>Asamgarh</i> . . . . .	.	2 bales H 6558 and 650, " 7.
<i>Pilibhit</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale H 1005, " " 8.
<i>Lucknow</i> . . . . .	.	1 bale H 489, " " 5.
To Revd. J. W. Robinson, M. E. Mission, Lucknow.		{ 2 packages out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.
To Bishop of Lucknow		{ 1 package directly addressed to him from bale H 855, List No. 9.
To Miss. Wahl, Lucknow		{ 1 small bale addressed to her from bale H 974, List No. 11.
<i>Mainpuri</i>		{ 1 package out of 2 packages received from Lady Hannen, Shanghai.
<i>Shajehanpur</i> —		
To Mrs. L. S. Parker, M. E. Mission.		{ 1 package out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.
To Honorary Secretary, North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch, for distribution in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.		{ 2 bales H 268 and 267, List No. 3. 5 do. H 523-527 " " 6. 1 box out of 2 boxes received from Lancashire Needle Work, Guild. 1 package out of 2 packages received from Lady Hannen, Shanghai.
To Miss Luce, Zenana Mission House, Sultanpur, Oudh.		{ 1 small package addressed to Miss Luce from the bale as per List No. 17.

THE PUNJAB.

To Honorary Secretary, Punjab Branch, for distribution in the Punjab.	{	2 bales, H 270 and 271,	List No. 3.
		2 bales, H 490 „ 492,	„ „ 5.
		1 bale, H 654	„ „ 7.
		3 bales, H 658, 661 and 667	„ „ 7.
To Revd. H. C. Carlyon, Lahore Diocesan Secretary, Cambridge Mission, Delhi.	}	$\frac{1}{2}$ of bale, H 275, List No. 3.	

CENTRAL INDIA.

<i>Bundelkhand</i>	{	28 flannelette skirts	} From bale H $\frac{581}{1}$ List No. 1.
		1 child's flannel jacket	
		67 cotton skirts	
		1 do. bodice	
		68 chadars or veils	
		2 purple blankets	
		1 cotton skirt and bodice	

CENTRAL INDIA—*contd.*

<i>Gwalior</i>	1 bale, H 851, List No. 4. Lost in transit Compensation paid by Railway Company to Colonel D. J. Pitcher, I.C.S., to whom the bale was addressed.
	1 bale, H 852, List No. 9.
<i>Baghelkhand</i>	1 bale out of 3 bales of piece-goods received from Secretary, Mohabodhi Society, Calcutta.
	2 bales, H 651 and 653, List No. 7.

RAJPUTANA.

<i>Haroti and Tonk</i>	1 bale H. 656, List No. 7.
To Miss L. E. Marks, M. E. Mission, Ajmere.	1 package out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.

HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS.

<i>Wun</i>	1 bale out of 3 bales of piece-goods received from the Secretary, Mohabodhi Society, Calcutta.
<i>Amraoti</i>	1 box out of the 2 boxes received from the Lancashire Needle Work Guild.

BOMBAY.

<i>Poona</i>	1 bale, H 855, List No. 9.
<i>Ahmednagar</i>	1 bale, H 858. Less the package sent inside it to the address of the Bishop of Lucknow. List No. 9.
<i>Sholapur</i>	1 bale, H 400, List No. 9.
<i>Dharwar</i>	1 bale, H 1200. Less the small bale sent inside it to the address of Miss Fallon, Converts' Home, Allahabad.
	1 bale out of the 3 bales of piece goods received from the Secretary, Mohabodhi Society, Calcutta.
To Missionary in charge, M. E. Orphans' Home, Bombay.	1 package out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.
To Honorary Secretary, Bombay Branch, for plague hospitals.	1 bale (Central Committee's No. 2336, dated 10th February 1898).

MADRAS.

To Honorary Secretary, Madras Branch, for distribution in the Madras Presidency.	3 bales, H 272-74, List No. 3.
	2 bales, H 1002 and 1004, List No. 8.

BENGAL.

Calcutta—

To Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Superintendent, Church of England Zenana Mission, Normal School, 1 Cornwallis Square.	1 out of 2 cases received from Mrs. Hauser (Central Committee's letter No. 2338, dated 10th February 1898).
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Monghyr—

24 yards calico	} From bale H $\frac{582}{2}$, List No. 1.
15 „ old chintz	
9 parcels materials for petticoats.	
1 bale, H. 703, List No. 12.	

Southal Parganas—

To Revd. A. J. Meik, Bethlehem viâ Naya Dumka	1 package out of 17 packages received from Mrs. Hauser.
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Hazaribagh—

63 ehadars or veils from bale H $\frac{581}{1}$	List No. 1.
33 veils or ehadars „ „ $\frac{583}{3}$	„ „ „
27 cotton-prints „ „ $\frac{582}{2}$	„ „ „
To Miss Collis, Hazaribagh	50 cotton skirts from bale H $\frac{583}{3}$, List No. 1.

Supplementary statement showing distribution of the last 13 cases of clothing sent out by Mrs. J. G. Hanser of Delaware, Ohio, United States, America, *ex* S. S. "Asia."

Box.	No.	To whom given.	Remarks.
„	1	The Little Sisters of the Poor, Calcutta.	
„	2	Reverend Patrick Wall, Secretary to the R. C. Bishop and Manager, R. C. Orphanage, Nagpur.	
„	3	Missionary in charge M. E. Orphanage, Bareilly	. Especially addressed to him.
„	4	Missionary in charge M. E. Orphanage, Cawnpur	. Ditto.
„	5	Mrs. Elizabeth Branch, Church of England Zenana Mission, Jubbulpur.	
„	6	Reverend R. Clancy, Allahabad . . . .	. Especially addressed to him.
„	7	Miss Mary Reed, Pathoragarh . . . .	. Especially addressed to her.
„	8	T. S. Johnson, Esq., Superintendent, M. E. Church Mission, Central Provinces and Berar, Jubbulpur.	
„	9	Father Joseph Carroll, Secretary to the R. C. Bishop, Allahabad.	
„	10	Miss A. J. Lauck, Girls' High School, Cawnpur	. Especially addressed to her.
„	11	Honorary Secretary, Madras Branch, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.	
„	12	Reverend J. C. Lawson, Aligarh . . . .	. Especially addressed to him.
Without number		Reverend R. Clancy, Allahabad	Ditto.

Total 13 cases.

25th March 1898.

E. N. BAKER,
Honorary Secretary.

FORM C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF BURMA.

Final Balance Sheet.

RECEIPTS.		Amount.	EXPENDITURE.		Amount.
	R a. p.	R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.
1. Opening balance on 1st November 1897.			1. Under Object I . . . . .	.	R 69 12 0
(a) With Provincial Committee—			2. Ditto II . . . . .	.	.....
(i) Bank of Bengal	15,064 7 7		3. Ditto III . . . . .	.	35 0 0
(ii) Auditor	50 0 0		4. Ditto IV . . . . .	.	81,037 10 9
(iii) Honorary Secretary	17 8 0		5. Miscellaneous—		
(b) With District Committees	54,752 2 9	69,884 2 4	Provincial Committee . . . . .	.	336 12 0*
2. Receipts from the 1st November 1897 to the 28th February 1898—			TOTAL EXPENDITURE		81,479 2 9
(a) Remittance from Central Committee	25,000 0 0		Closing balances—		
(b) Receipts from other sources—			(a) With Provincial Committee . . . . .	.	13,256 9 7
Subscription for the province	0 1 0	25,000 1 0	(b) With District Committees . . . . .	.	148 7 0
TOTAL R		94,884 3 4	TOTAL R		13,405 0 7
					94,884 3 4

* Includes the sum of Rs250, allowance paid to the Special Auditor.

W. F. NOYCE,

Honorary Secretary,
Burma Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

